King Fahd holds talks with Velayati

RIYADH (AFP) — King Fahd held talks here Tuesday with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati on bilateral ties. Gulf issues and developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina, an Iranian diplomat said. Tehran's Ambassador Mohammad Ali Hadi Najaf said the meeting, also attended by Saudi Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, was "positive," but gave no other details. A Saudi source said Mr. Velayati handed the king a message from Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani but its contents were not revealed. Mr. Velayati, who arrived in Riyadh earlier in the day, is on the first leg of a tour of Gulf Arab states, a week after Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's mission to warn the region of the alleged security threat from Iran. Tehran Radio said Mr. Velayati left for Riyadh, security threat from Iran. Tehran Radio said Mr. Velayati left for Riyadh, to be followed during the week-long tour by visits to Kuwait, Bahrain. Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman. Last week, Mr. Mubarak toured the same countries to raise the alarm over the alleged threat from non-Arab neighbour across the Gulf. Mr. Velayati, who last visited Saudi Arabia in June 1991, is expected to seek to reassure the Gulf Arabs and promote cooperation within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

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17,000 ships checked for Iraq cargo

BAHRAIN (AP) — Allied warships, enforcing a tight blockade against Iraq, have intercepted 17,000 ships since they began their mission in August 1990, a U.S. navy spokesman said 1990, a U. luesday. The spokesman said the 17,000th ship was Peter 1, a container vessel registered in Vanuatu in the southwest Pacific northeast of Australia. It was stopped and boarded by a U.S. navy team in the Red Sea Monday. But no contraband cargo was found aboard and the team was satisfied with the manifest. The ship was allowed to sail on to Aqaba, he said. Of the total numbers of ships intercepted. 6,860 required boarding, the spokesman said. U.S. navy teams have carried out two-thirds of these missions. He said only 396 vessels so far have been diverted because of manifest irregularities.

'Iraq years from new missile ability'

MANAMA (AFP) — Iraq is years away from regaining the long-range missile capability it enjoyed before the Gulf war, a U.N. inspection team returning after two months in the Middle East country said Monday. The eight-strong team of ballistics experts returned to its U.N. base here Monday after a seven-week tour of Iraq, where its brief was to oversee the elimination of the country's ballistic weapons. Team leader Dennis Vincent, an American, told journalists that the mission — the 54th of its kind under U.N. auspices — was in general "positive" and that the Iraqis provided all the information the team had requested.

Arab alles discuss economic accord

DUBAI (R) — Finance ministers from six Gulf Arab states and Egypt and Syria began talks in Qatar Tuesday aimed at reviving dormant two-year-old agreement on economic cooperation. The talks mark the first full meeting of finance ministers of the eight countries that signed the Damascus declaration, an economic and military agreement among Arab Gulf war allies, in March 1991 following the expulsion of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Delegates contacted by Reuters said the ministers would discuss "implementing the economic subjects contained in the Damascus declaration." Egypt and Syria are hoping to ease unemployment at home through investment from a fund to be set up by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

Algerian bombing trial resumed

ALGIERS (AFP) — The trial of suspects in a bomb attack at Algiers airport that left nine dead last year resumed Tuesday at a special court here, but the hearing was boycotted by defence lawyers. In their absence, the three of the 55 defendants. who appeared before the court refused to answer questions from the senior judge, but he had their written testimony read out loud. Lawyers boycotted that trial. Even after an official announcement Monday on agreement between the heads of Algerian bar associations and the justice minis-· iry on the "normal functioning of the special courts." The lawyers had been objecting to new legislation entitling court presidents to expel them from the court room or to suspend them for between three and six months.

Egypt bans media coverage of trial

CAIRO (AP) — The military attorney general banned further news coverage Tuesday on the trial of 14 Muslim militants accused of trying to assassinate a cabinet minister and attacking tourists. The restriction forbids local or foreign news organisations from reporting on the case. Major General Mohammad Abdullah imposed the ban after the 10 defendants in custody continued causing chaos during Monday's session despite earlier moves to silence them. On Saturday, Maj. Gen. Ahmad Abdullah, the military judge hearing the case, banished the defendants from court after they called him "butcher" and "murderer."

Israeli army kills 5

Human rights group reports steep climb in number of children killed

JABALYA, occupied Gaza Strip (Agencies) — The Israeli army shot dead four Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip Tuesday and a fifth Palestinian died of wounds, Palestinian witnesses and hospitals said.

Troops shot dead at least three Palestinians and wounded at least 35 in a single incident in Jabalya town in Gaza, witnesses said.

The incident in Jabalya began when about 3,000 supporters of the banned Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas gathered for a memorial service for one of six Hamas members killed by Israeli forces on May 10 near the border with Egypt. Army, paramilitary border

police and plainclothes undercover units surrounded the orange grove where the service was being held and opened fire indiscriminately and without provocation, the witnesses said. The gunfire surprised the

mourners, who did not know the security forces were present. Startled mourners fled in all directions between the trees while the shooting continued, witnesses said.

A Palestinian photographer at the memorial saw the army load two bodies carried on Palestinian flags into a military jeep. A third body was taken by Palestinians, the witnesses said.

A Reuter correspondent who visited Shifa hospital in Gaza saw a 12-year-old boy identified as Atef Makousi who was shot in the neck and paralysed. The boy's brother Awni Makousi, 18, was one of the three killed.

The correspondent said the army prevented ambulance drivers, United Nations relief workers and Red Cross from going into the orchard to evacuate the casualties. He said soldiers were pushing the relief workers.

Hospitals said many of the wounded were shot in the upper body although army regulations instruct troops to fire at suspects'

In a separate incident in Gaza on Tuesday, soldiers shot dead Taleb Ahmad Abu Ataya, 20, during a stone-throwing clash in Nusseirat refugee camp, officials at Shifa hospital said. Abu Ataya was described as mentally re-

Another youth, Kamal Aslan, 28. died Tuesday of gunshot wounds he suffered in a clash in Gaza Monday. Shifa said.

An Israeli human rights group criticised the army Tuesday for the death of an 18-month-old Palestinian boy by a soldier firing

at stone-throwing protesters. The group Betselem accused the soldier of opening fire with no warning and without his life being endangered as youths pelted soldiers with stones Sunday in the

Gaza Strip. Betselem, or the Israel Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, also noted that 12 children died in army fire in December-May, more than in any six-month period in the Palestinian uprising.

The Hebrew daily Hadashot also criticised the army for the death Sunday of the Palestinian toddler, Fares Al Kord, in an editorial titled "Stop Killing Chil-

Kord was shot as he stood near the entrance to a tyre repair shop in the Jabalya refugee camp, witnesses told Betselem and Hadashot. His father had sought refuge in the shop when trouble erupted in the camp, they said.

The shop owner, Mohammad Mussa Mussai Al Barai, said the boy was "about one metre inside the shop, very close to me and his father. The officer was about 25-30 metres away, lowered his gun and shot immediately. If he had done it more slowly, we would have been deeper into the



Israeli police arrest a Palestinian during a demon- Jerusalem against the seven-week-old Israeli militstration Tuesday at the northern entrance to ary closure of the occupied Holy City (AFP photo)

Danes approve Maastricht

COPENHAGEN (Agencies) Danes approved the European Community's (EC) ambitious plan for political and economic unity Tuesday, according to projections based on the first partial returns. Rejection would likely have killed the plan.

Nearly four million Danish voters were asked to approve a treaty that would create a common European foreign policy, central bank and currency by

All 12 EC nations must approve the treaty for it to take effect. Aside from Denmark, Britain is the only EC country yet to ratify it. Passage in Britain seems likely - perhaps by the autumn — but is not assured because of opposition in parliament.

Danes voted to accept the treaty by 56.8 to 43.2 per cent, according to a computer forecast by Danish television after 15 per cent of the votes were counted.

If confirmed, the result would reverse the outcome of a referendum last June in which Danes rejected the treaty on political, economic and monetary union by 50.7-49.3 per cent. The forecast

was considered to be reliable. The forecast confirmed the trend in earlier computer projections which also gave the "Yes" share as around 57 per cent with

43 per cent for "No." A telephone poll of 1,000 Danes showed 56 per cent favouring the treaty and 44 per cent opposed. The poll by Aim-

Nielsen had a three per cent margin of error. A spokeswoman for a group

opposed to the treaty conceded "It's clearly a disappointment," said Drude Dahlerup,

spokeswoman for the anti-treaty

June movement, "It's a historical decision going the wrong way." Danes narrowly rejected the treaty last June. But in' December, the EC — answering concerns raised in last year's vote allowed Denmark to opt out the treaty's provisions calling for a

common European currency, defence and citizenship. The accord, negotiated in December 1991 in Maastricht, Holland, is aimed at giving the EC more clout in world affairs and increasing its economic competitiveness against the United States

and Japan. With the other EC nations moving ahead, Denmark might have been left on the sidelines if it

had rejected the treaty. Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen Monday made a last-minute plea for support, warning his countrymen that they "would never be forgiven" for scuttling the plan.

Europe, confronted by conflict and recession, needs to stand together to overcome the problems, he said. The unity treaty, he said, offers "a historical moment for a new start" in streng-

thening ties. "I'm a believer in a union." Anne Krogh said as she waited at a crowded polling station in northern Copenhagen Tuesday with her five-year-old son, Marcus. "How can we stand alone when others unite?"

But others expressed concern the agreement would swallow up Denmark in a faceless bureaucracy and reduce many of the generous social benefits the government provides citizens.

Retiree Kurt Sorensen said he voted "No" because of fears his retirement assistance would be cut. "I'm making sure (Danes) don't get fooled by bureaucrats in Brussels," he said, referring to the EC headquarters in the Bel-

gian capital. Another opponent, Finn Hansen, an unemployed worker, said, "why should Denmark disappear in a union? Why should they force us to become Europeans when we are Danes and want to stay Danes?"

The Danish rejection last year was widely attributed to voters' reluctance to cede some national sovereignty to a fledgling EC federal government in Brussels. Anxious to ease those fears. EC leaders agreed to give De-

nmark the exemptions. Preben Frederiksen, a Copenhagen salesman who voted against the treaty last year, said the "opt-outs" covered "what we

were worried about." The time, he said, "I'm going to vote 'Yes' - like many other Danes, I think."



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday meets with a delegation representing the Palestine Liberation Army (Petra photo)

King meets PLA team, reaffirms stands

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday Jordan seeks to establish a just, lasting and sustainable peace which future generations will accept and defend. He noted that the road to such a peace is difficult, long and arduous.

Speaking at a meeting with a delegation representing the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), which called at the Royal Court to congratulate the King on the 40th anniversary of the assumption of his constitutional powers, King Hussein said: "We have a duty towards the future generations — a duty to save the kinsmen in their occupied home-.

iand and to enable them to restore their rights on their national

The King said Jordan "will continue to confirm all the challenges facing it, and will not despair." "Challenges will strengthen

high and not to bow to anybody except God," the King said. He stressed the need for Arabs to advance and for Arab states to

be "states of institutions capable of establishing strong and solid ties among the various Arab

The King noted that Jordan has -applied political pluralism and

was pursuing its democratisation process, observing human rights and respecting human dignity.

friends than enemies," the King

"It is our destiny as Jordanians and Palestinians alike to be one family and to face a lot of challenges. In fact it gives us honour to do so, despite the fact that our our resolve to keep our heads suffering comes more from

> King Hussein thanked the delegation for a PLA gift — a copy of the Holy Koran — "It is the dearest gift of all and that it is

kept in the hearts and minds," King Hussein said. He asked the commander of

the PLA to convey his greetings to Palestinian President Yasser

The PLA Commander voiced appreciation and gratitude for King Hussein's honourable stands towards the Palestinian question, and said people in the occupied Arab territories "will not forget the King's heroic and firm positions and his support for

He conveyed President Arafat's best wishes to the King. The audience was attended by

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Israeli officer wounded in Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (Agencies) -An Israeli soldier was killed and two others were wounded in a bomb attack claimed by Hizbollah near the border in southern. Lebanon Tuesday, security sources said.

"A militiaman of the Israelibacked South Lebanon Army (SLA) and three civilians of Israel's self-imposed "security zone" in the region were also wounded in heavy shelling that followed the attack, they said. The Israeli army confirmed the

incident. In Beirut the Islamic Resistance, military wing of the Hizbollah (Party of God), said later its guerrillas killed three Israeli soldiers when they attacked an Israeli patrol near the village of Rihane. Hizbollah sources said two guerrillas were seriously wounded in the fighting.

The Israeli army said the clash took place near the village of Sujud at 6.30 a.m. (0330 GMT) but military censors delayed reports of it for nearly 12 hours so that the army could first inform the families of the dead and

wounded soldiers. Sujud and Rihane are three kilometres apart and both about 16 kilometres north of the Israeli

They are close to the edge of the "security zone" Israel set up

Lebanese security sources said the clash was with machineguns and anti-tank rockets.

Israel and its local militia ally the South Lebanon Army (\$LA retaliated for the attack by shelling villages in the area.

Guerrillas fired mortar shells at Aishiyeh village in the "security zone," an SLA stronghold, and wounded two SLA soldiers and two civilians. One of the civilians was a three-year-old criticially wounded in the head, Israel said. The guerrillas also fired four Katyusha rockets into the buffer enclave after Israeli gunners

pounded the Iqlim Al Toufah

The sources said more than 150 heavy artillery shells crashed into Iglim Al Toufah, north of Rihane and 40 kilometres south of Beirut, and the explosions could be heard in the port of Sidon. One resident said shells were at times falling at a rate of three every minute.

Arabs, Israel resume arms talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Arabs and Israelis resumed talks Tuesday aimed at ridding the region of nuclear, chemical and biological

The Middle East arms control talks, part of the Arab-Israeli peace talks, convened for their fourth session with some 40 countries and international organisations in attendance — including Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states, North African states, European countries, Japan and U.N. organisations.

The idea of such broad participation is to provide Arabs and Israelis with assurances of support as they undertake the delicate issue of cutting their arsenals of mass destruction. Svria and Lebanon are boycot-

ting the talks pending progress in their direct peace talks with Israel, where they are demanding that the Israelis exchange the occupied Arab territories for

For the first time since the arms talks began in January 1992, a Palestinian delegation also was participating. Israel had argued until now that the Palestinians were not a country and therefore should not take part in arms control talks, but changed its mind as a concession to advance its one-on-one peace talks with

The arms control talks are theoretically modelled on the experience of decades of U.S. Soviet disarmament negotiations. The United States and Russia has been working closely with the sides to prepare the sessions and guide the talks.

the Palestinians.

U.S. persuasion is largely credited for a reduction in persistent Arab demands that arms control talks should start with Israel signing the international Non-Proliferation Treaty and opening up its nuclear facilities for inspec-

Israal is widely believed to have dozens of nuclear warheads. although it has never officially confirmed these reports.

Instead, the United States and Russia have steered the talks towards discussion of confidencebuilding measures among Arabs and Israelis - arguing that a reduction of arsenals could realistically occur only after peace is achieved between the sides.

In the meantime, Arabs and Israelis are discussing such measures as establishing a conflict prevention centre, exchanging information about manoeuvres and creating mechanisms for avoiding accidental clashes.

Israel is the only military power in the Middle East believed to have nuclear weapons. But Israel, Egypt and Syria are known to have chemical and biological weapons programmes. Environment talks in Tokyo next week, page 10.

Ashrawi: No discussion on U.S. draft statement

By Wafa Amr

AMMAN — Palestinian peace negotiators will not discuss with U.S. officials a joint Israeli-Palestinian statement presented to them at the close of last week's peace talks, spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said Tuesday.

"We are not interested in a joint statement, because the joint statement is not in form or substance what we felt should be the way of addressing issues," Dr. Ashrawi told Reuters after meeting with Jordanian officials.

She said the peace negotiators should instead discuss separate declarations of principles by the Palestinians and Israel in order to formulate a joint declaration of principles bridging the gap between them.

Dr. Ashrawi said any documents that violated the terms of reference were unacceptable to the Palestinians. Israel and the Palestinians

failed to reach agreement on the principles of interim Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in the ninth round of peace talks which ended in Washington last week.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) rejected at the close of the talks a U.S.-drafted joint Israeli-Palestinian statement on autonomy, but it left the door open for further talks with U.S. officials on principles.

PLO officials in Amman said they were concerned that the U.S. document might form new terms of reference for the talks.

They said it exhibited Israeli bias and departed from the original terms of reference backed by the United States and Russia as sponsors of the peace process which brought Arabs and Israelis

to the negotiating table in 1991, "The American proposal does not show U.S. intervention in terms of presenting a fair alternative or bringing the parties to comply with the terms of refer-

ence," Dr. Ashrawi said. She said the original terms of reference were clear "and all documents and positions presented have to be within these terms of reference."

Dr. Ashrawi pointed out that there have been ongoing contacts with U.S. officials and actual talks on the declaration of principles will be taking place soon, "We don't want just technical

appearance of progress that could be misleading but rather addressing the real issues," she said. No firm date has been set for the next round of talks, and a meeting of Arab foreign ministers will be held in Amman to assess

the last round of talks. The Palestine Central Council will also meet in Tunis to carry out a comprehensive review of the peace process, Dr. Ashrawi said. Talking to journalists Sunday night, Dr. Ashrawi refused to use

ninth session of the peace talks, However, she said the session has been a "negative test" of Israel's intentions and of the United States' readiness to keep to its commitments.

the word "failure" about the

S. Arabia continues crackdown

NICOSIA (AFP) — Saudi Arahian authorities have arrested 44 backers of a recently-formed Saudi human rights movement. the London-based Liberty group said Tuesday.

Liberty, an Islamic human rights organisation, said 44 more sympathisers of the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR) were arrested.

Fourteen of the detentions occurred in the kingdom's Eastem Province while the remaining arrests took place in the Western Province. Liberty said in a state-

ment faxed to AFP in Nicosia. "The Saudi government is hereby requested to stop the harsh course of measures adopted against CDLR members and sympathisers," it said. "Liberty believes that such measures can

only complicate things." It appealed to international human rights organisatious and parliaments în "world democracies to campaign for the release of Professor Mohammad Al Masaari and his detained fellow citizens, and to pressure the Saudi authorities into putting an immediate stop to their campaign against human rights activists in

the kingdom. On Monday. Liberty said that two employees of King Saud University in Riyadh, where a CDLR founder taught, had been arrested amid a wave of deten-



No Iraq ties unless Saddam is gone, Kuwaiti minister says

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, calling Saddam Hussein a menace to the Gulf, has said it would normalise ties with Iraq only when his government was replaced by an administration that resolved outstanding issues between the two countries.

"He's a menace, a threat, not just to Kuwait but to all the Gulf countries," Information Minister Sheikh Saud Nasser Al Saud Al Sabah said of the Iraqi president Monday.

Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990 and claimed it as its 19th province. A U.S.-led military alliance of Western and Arab armies drove out Iraqi troops in February 1991.

Asked how long it would take to normalise ties. Sheikh Saud

"It all depends on how long Saddam Hussein and his regime remain in power. Things could change very rapidly or they could take their time. I think we have to be ready to sit this out until we

can get rid of him." "Certainly Kuwait and Iraq are neighbours and they will remain neighbours forever. It is our intention that once there is a responsible regime in Irao which respects international law and legitimacy and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kuwait, things could be

normalised.' The minister said outstanding issues included the 620 Kuwaitis that Kuwait says were taken captive during the occupation and are held in Iraq, Iraq's refusal to recognise a new border and Kuwaiti claims for compensation for war damage.

Iraq denies it holds Kuwaitis Sheikh Saud said he had been shocked by the arrest last month of 16 people suspected of plotting to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush in Kuwait on orders from Iraqi intelligence.

Iraq has denied any links to the suspects. It said Mr. Bush, who was in Kuwait from April 14 to State prosecutors on Monday

charged 10 Iragis out of the 16 with attempting to blow up Mr. Bush. An Iraqi and a Kuwaiti were charged as accomplices also a crime punishable by death. Two more people of unspecified nationality were charged

with providing shelter for some of the 12 without knowing their intentions. The trial has been set for June 5. Two others will be charged

with smuggling alcohol and their case will be tried separately. Mr. Bush's visit, aimed at honouring his Gulf war leadership, passed off without incident. Sheikh Saud said the government was disappointed that

"This is very disappointing for us and very unfortunate to find out that a number of Kuwaitis were among the people that were recruited by these Iraqi agents,"

Kuwaitis were among the sus-

he said. "They were misled, according to our information, that it was (meant to be) a pure smuggling operation, smuggling of alcohol and drugs. We are extremely disappointed and they will be treated as the Iraqi agents will be

"I cannot overemphasise that the number one priority in Kuwait is security," Sheikh Saud said. "Compared to security, all other issues which people are talking, discussing and writing

treated," he said without elabor-

about are irrelevant." Sheikh Saud also said security remained by far its top priority more than two years after the Gulf war.

"I cannot overemphasise that the number one priority in Kuwait is security," Sheikh Saud told Reuters.

"Compared to security, all 16, was not worth the explosives. other issues which people are talking, discussing and writing about are irrelevant."

> Sheikh Saud said a ditch Kuwait plans to build on its border with Iraq was only the first in a series of improvements to its defences against its northern neighbour.

Sheikh Saud said a ditch three metres deep and five metres wide and a rampart four metres high along the 207 kilometres of frontier would help keep out infiltrators and "terrorists," Baghdad might send.

"It is important for us to create some kind of an obstacle to control the flow of infiltrators and terrorists from Iraq."

"This (ditch) is only part, it is phase one of many security arrangements that will be made on the border," he said without elaborating_

Joint exercises with American. French and British forces were also aimed at building up military defences, he added.

"Our main concern is to improve our military defensive capability by these joint exercises, by training and (obtaining) up-to-date equipment.

Kuwaiti bank sues Iraqi banks The National Bank of Kuwait sued Rafidain Bank of Iraq and the Central Bank of Iraq Monday for their alleged failure to pay back millions of dollars in loans.

The suit was filed in Manhattan federal court because a substantial part of the events allegedly occurred in the U.S. Electrical Projects Co., which

is an agency of the Iraqi govern-"No one wants to turn the Gulf ment, is also named as a defenpowers," Mr. Saadoun said.

May 25.

beyond its border.



'EXERCISES': Palestinian youths from Hamas the Ezzedin Al Qassam, the armed group of Hamas movement show military exercises with toy guns in that was killed last week by the Israeli army (AFF Jabalya refugee camp, during a memorial day for photo)

Kuwaiti speaker wants strong Iran ties KUWAIT (R) - Kuwait's Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Saadoun said in remarks published Tuesday Gulf Arab states ought to maintain good relations with Iran because it was a strong coun-

"There is no need to create a new antagonism with Iran in a time in which we need to strengthen our relations with it, being a strong country in the region," Al Watan daily quoted the opposi-

tion veteran as saying. "We hope that Iran shares the same tendency (towards strengthening ties) with us. We cannot ignore its presence in the region," he added.

into a conflict region not among its states nor among the super-

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati started Tuesday a tour of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Mr. Velayati visits Kuwait on

Mr. Velayati's tour comes hot on the heels on a similar swing through the Gulf by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in which he tried to convince GCC leaders that Tehran was fomenting Muslim fundamentalist unrest

Tehran's ties with the GCC enjoying freedom of expression, greatly improved after it de- newspapers quoted the opposinounced Iraq's 1990 invasion of tion veteran as saying in a meet-Kuwait, but cooled again after the Arabs became concerned about its rearming and what neighbours view as its territorial ambi-

widely-held official views, added: "It is impossible, at least for the time being, even to talk about having relations with some regimes such as the Iraqi regime... and also the Jordanian regime, which represents the head of the prob-

lem in the Arab region. Hostility towards Jordan still runs high in Kuwait because of Jordanian and Palestinian peoples' sympathy for Iraq during the subjects. 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

Mr. Saadoun added it was impossible for any early resumption of ties between Kuwait and the er spurred national debate. Palestine Liberation Organisatheir sympathy for Iraq.

He added, without elaborating: "We must watch cautiously the political powers in Iraq, even the opposition, because it does not differ from the regime itself." Freedom of expression would

prevent extremism of any kind from taking hold in Kuwait, Mr. Saadoun was quoted as aying. "I don't think that terrorism or

ing with editors.

"Kuwait is an open country where freedom of expression and speech are guaranteed. People talk freely about all issues in Mr. Saadoun, reiterating diwaniyehs (receptions) and in private. There is an atmosphere of dialogue and negotiation in the country which is contrary to ter-

> Kuwait abolished press censorship following its 1991 Gulf war liberation from Iraqi occupation. Newspapers have responded enthusiastically by regularly printing outspoken commentaries on a range of sensitive political

> The October 1992 revival of the fiesty national assembly following a six-year break has furth-

"Whoever says there is extremtion. Sudan or Yemen because of ism in Kuwait indicated that he does not know the people of Kuwait and the nature of this community," Mr. Saadoun was quoted as saving.

Newspapers said Mr. Saadoun said Islamic groups in Kuwait did not export "terrorism."

"There is no extremism or terrorism in Kuwait because the Kuwaiti community is a peaceful one in which all enjoy freedom of opinion," he said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Many bedoun ineligible for nationality - Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) -- Kuwait said it might grant nationality to write of the stateless Arabs who constitute aimost III per cent of its population, but stressed many were meligible. "We are now in process of sorting this issue out." Information Minister Sheikh Saud Nasser Al Saud Al Sabah said in an interview with Reuters Monday evening. "There are people who have a right to Kuwani nationality and who were unjustly denied it in the past for one reason or another, and they will be looked into soon on this issue, and their status will be corrected accordingly." But people who have no connection whatsoever according to the laws of Kuwaiti citizenship will not be given that citizenship. It's only right and just." he said. The issue of stateless Arabs has become increasingly controversial because of a debate over the 40 per cent fall in the total population to 1.3 million since Iraq's 1990 invasion. The population fell largely because of the departure during the occupation and its immediate aftermath of Palestinians and stateless and other Arabs seen by Kuwait as pro-Iraqi Official figures show there are 117,604 stateless people or "bedouns" in Kuwait, down from 220,000 in June 1990 Bedouns form a substantial part of armed forces personnel. Most of the bedouns are descended from nomads from the deserts of Arabia who settled in Kuwait but could not obtain citizenship because of strict nationality laws.

Saudi defence minister, Qatari emir hold talks

DUBAI (R) - Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister Prince Sultan met Qatar's Emir Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thant Tuesday for talks aimed at strengthening ties between the two countries who fell out over a violent border dispute last year. The Qutur News Agency quoted Prince Sultan as saving on his arrival in Doha that relations between the two neighbouring Gulf states were "firm and solid." Three people died in a clash on the border between Sauch Arabia and Qatar last September, prompting a three-month crisis. In December they signed an Egyptian-mediated deal which ended the dispute and paved the way for Qutar to lift a boycott of the Gulf Cooperation Council regional alliance.

Amnesty team to visit Morocco despite attack

RABAT (R) - Amnesty International said Tuesday it will send a mission to Morocco this week despite strong criticism from King Hassan. A spokesman for the London-based human rights group said the mission, led by its Deputy Secretary-General Herve Berger, was due in Rabat Wednesday for a visit of several days at the invitation of the Consultative Council for Human Rights. The multi-party council was appointed by the king three years ago to monitor human rights in Morocco and make recommendations to the monarch to improve them. There are also three other rights groups in Morocco, one of them independent and two others linked to opposition parties. "I say to Amnesty International it is an old and completely faded thing that has no further use." King Hassan told a French television journalist in an interview.

Kuwait seeks check on Bosnia captives

KUWAIT (R) - Knwait has asked the International Committee of the Red Cross to check whether there are any Kuwaitis among Muslims held by Croat fighters in Bosnia, a Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday. The official, who declined to be identified, told Reuters Kuwait had asked the ICRC to obtain the names of any Arab captives in the embattled Bosnian town of Mostar to enable Kuwait to discover if any of its nationals were among them. The official said Kuwait had made the request following a report by a Kuwaiti humanitarian group that it was seeking United Nations help in trying to win freedom for a Kuwaiti mosque preacher held captive by Croat fighters in Bosnia. Tareq Al Issa of the Islamic Heritage Revival Society said Monday that the preacher, Kulaib Al Mutairi, had gone to Bosnia in December 1992 as part of a humanitarian mission by the society that helped Bosnian Muslims

54 feared drowned in Somalia dhow accident

MOMBASA, Kenya (R) — Seven bodies have been recovered and 47 people were missing and feared drowned after a dhow taking Somali refugees home capsized off the Kenyan coastal town of Mombasa Monday, police said. Police and navy divers had rescued 26 people and fished seven bodies from the Indian Ocean. "Of the 80 people on board, we have accounted for only those," Kenyan police spokesman Jeremiah Matagaro told Reuters. "The others are still missing, possibly drowned." He said navy divers had launched an intensified search for possible survivors and for bodies Tuesday. Mr. Matagaro said the dhow, named MV Sayed Mohammad, had 62 passengers and 18 crew aboard. One survivor told local newspapers the dhow capsized due to excessive cargo loaded on the upper deck.

12 killed in anti-drugs operation

TEHRAN (AFP) — Security forces have killed or wounded 20 traffickers in an operation in southeast Iran that netted 11 tonnes of drugs, Jomhuri İslami newspaper said Tuesday. Revolutionary Guards and the army seized six tonnes of drugs and set fire to another five tonnes, it said. Twelve smugglers were killed and eight wounded in a "surprise and coordinated attack." Security forces also seized arms and ammunition, including a multiple rocket launcher during the operation in the Saravan region of Sistan va Baluchestan province. The paper did not say when it took place or give other details. More than 60 tonnes of drugs - mainly opium. heroin and morphine — were hauled last year in Iran, the main transit route for drugs from Pakistan and Afghanistan headed for

Briton charged with helping Kurdish rebels

SILOPI, Turkey (AP) - Authorities Monday arrested a British journalist who crossed into Turkey from Iraqi-Kurdish controlled. northern Iraq, and official said. The semi-official Anatolia news! agency identified him as Andrew Norman Penny. 39. a free-lance journalist. It said Mr. Penny and Faik Bulut, a Turkish journalist for the pro-Kurdish newspaper Ozgur Gundem, were taken into custody two days ago for allegedly possessing illegal Turkish Kurdish documents and video tapes Saturday. They were formally arrested Monday. The Turkish journalist was released, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Silopi is near the. Iraqi border.

OBITUARY

George Suleiman Tannous and family, his mother Salma, His Uncle Dr. Izzat and family, and Fuad's daughters Rhona and Shereen, his sisters Lily, Wadad, Hilda and son Nadim and all the Tannous's family and friends in Jordan and overseas: The Gumris, Bahnans, Domians, Grahams, Nuguls and the Jallads, deeply mourn their beloved:

FUAD SULEIMAN TANNOUS

who passed away in London. His funeral ceremony will be held in the Al-Fadi Arab Anglican Church, Jabal Amman Friday May 21st, at 4:00 p.m. following which he will be laid to rest in the Um El-Hiran Cemetery. Condolences will be received for three days as of Friday. Gentlemen at his brother's home in Jabal Amman 4th Circle, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. For the Ladies at Fuad's home, same building during the morning hours.

In honour of Fuad's memory and request; instead of sending flowers, your contributions towards charitable funds through the Al-Fadi Church office will be appreciated.

extremism can grow in countries Kurds 'do not want separate state'

and Turkey have affirmed that are minorities in various states. concerns of Turkey." their people seek freedom and they now inhabit — as opposed to

borders of the countries in which we live," said Ahmet Turk, chairman of the People's Labour Party in Turkey.

"The international climate is not conducive" to the creation of new states, said Barham Salih, Washington. "We think it is costeffective to seek a united, democratic Iraq" that respects the rights of all its minorities.

Mr. Salih and Mr. Turk made the comments during a hearing sponsored by the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) on the status of the Kurds living in Turkey, Iraq

director of the CSCE, noted that the Turkish government against the hearing was the latest in a the separatist insurgents of the ter." series of minority issues being Kurdish Worker's Party (PKK). held by the commission.

WASHINGTON (USIA) - Kur- of the Kurds as "enormously to secure our borders... and dish representatives from Iraq complex" precisely because they address the legitimate security

> Territory occupied by Kurdish communalities?... what is the vi- the Kurds.' sion for cooperation... among the world's Kurds?"

Ms. Hafner noted that one ment and the PKK as "genuine" thing shared by Kurdish minorities in those three countries, as Soviet Union, is "the lack of institutional protection of their human rights... in varying de-

their "willingness to work within current borders," Ms. Hafner key's leaders need to examine suggested. Following the allied creation of a "safe haven" for the Kurds in northern Iraq, two Kur-Mary Sue Hafner, deputy staff dish political parties supported

According to Mr. Salih, Iraq's Mark Epstein, a consultant and Kurds agreed to prevent PKK Department, described the plight an obligation to our neighbours throughout the country.

Both Mr. Salih and Mr. Turk democracy within the countries people once belonged to the also pointed to the goals of "free-Ottoman empire, and has been dom and liberty" as features that the creation of an independent divided among Turkey, Iran, unite most Kurds. Mr. Turk Iraq, Syria and republics of the noted that the PKK took a "We realise it's difficult to former Soviet Union since the "reality-check" and recently change borders, and know that end of World War I. With no announced that it would respect our solution now lies within the common history for most of this the territorial integrity of Turkey century, he asked, "what are the "as long as there is freedom for He described the current ceasefire between the Turkish govern-

and urged both sides to make permanent peace. "The opporthe Iraqi Kurds' representative in well as in Syria and the former tunity at hand must be seized and must be pursued," he said. Democratic forces around the world, Mr. Turk added, "should also give the Ankara government Another salient characteristics the moral support it needs" to of major Kurdish organisations is realise peace with the insurgents. According to Mr. Epstein, Tur-

"whether Turkey can find a way to accommodate the legitimate Kurdish cultural aspirations, while maintaining its integrity as a state and its national charac-

Barham Salih described the Kurds' successful experiment with democracy in their northern former congressional staffer and guerrillas from using bases in Iraqi enclave as a prelude to a scholar-in-residence at the State Iraqi territory because "we have reformed political system

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR ZARQA: * Dr. Samir Al Lawzi (—) Khalifch pharmacy 985417

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO 18:00 L'histoire des Climats 19:00 News in French 19:15 French Varieties 19:30 News in Hebrew 20:06 News in Arabic 20:30 Chance in a million 21:00 Local Programme 21:15 Soccer Match 22:09 News in English 22:29 Second Half of Match 23:00 The Gravy Train

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CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifleh, Assemblies of God Church, Tel. St. Joseph Church Tcl. 624590.

De la Salle Charch Tcl. 661757 Terrasancia Church Tel: 622366 Church of the Annunciation Tel. Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. Catholic Church Tel. Armenian Orthodox Churck Tel. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Amman International Church Tel. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

Day Saints Tcl. 823824, 654932, Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691. WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

it will be partly cloudy and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be westerly moderate to fresh, causing dust in desert areas." In Agaba, it will be partly cloudy with chance for scattered showers, and winds will be northerly fresh and seas Jordan Valley 17 / 31 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 19 per cent, Aqaba 22 per

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY** AMMAN: Dr. Jamal Al Ja'bari 796460 Dr. Mohammad Al Ghoul 790730 Dr. Mukhles Halasa 819220 Dr. Mohammad Imran 612232 Firas pharmacy 661912. Al Asema pharmacy 637055 Ai Salam pharmacy 636730 Yacoub pharmacy 644945 Shmeisani pharmacy 637660 Nairoujh pharmacy 623672 Najib pharmacy 847632

Dr. Mazen Shara'i (—)
Al Ouds pharmacy (—)

EMERGENCIES Food Control Centre 637111 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate Fire Brigade...... 891228 Blood Bank 775121 Highway Police 843402 Public Security Department 630321 Hotel Complaints 605800 Price Complaints 661176 Water and Sewerage Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121 Overseas Calls 010230 Central Amman Telephone Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority ... 815615

Electric Power

HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity. J. Amn... 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.... 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4 Shmeisani Hospital 669131 University Hospital 845845 Al-Musher Hospital 667227/9 The Islamic. Abdali 666127/37 Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6 Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775111/26 Army.3Marka 891611/15 Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50 Amal Hospital 674155 ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital .. (09)900560 Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732 Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990 AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

86:80 Aden (RJ) 09:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 18:60 Aqaba (RJ) 10:00 _____ Jeddah (RJ) 10:10 Larnaca (RJ) 17:30 London (RJ) 17:50 Frankfurt (RJ) 18:25 istanbul (RJ) 18:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) 18:30 Brussels, Paris (RJ) 19:10 Madrid, Geneva (RI) 19:10 Toronto, Montreal (RJ) 19:40 Rome (RJ) 90:45 Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

97:48 Karachi (PI)
10:35 Cairo (MS)
11:30 Sanaa (IY) 11:25 Cairo (MS) 11:36 jeddah (SU) 19:45 Karachi (Pl) 18:45 Damascus (P1) 18:50 Paris, Damascus (AF) 20:50 Bcirut (ME) 21:45 Lamaca (LY) MARKET PRICES 22:45 Vicana, Lamaca (OS)

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

97:45 Aqaba (RJ) 10:30 Rome (RJ) 11:35 London, Berlin(RJ) 11:50 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ) 12:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ) 12:40 Istanbul (R1) 20:36 Colombo (RI) 28:45 Aqaba, Cairo (RI) 21:10 New Delhi (RJ) 21:45 Damascus (RI) 22:00 Calcinia, Bangkok (RJ) 23:45 Sanaa (RU)

Other Flights (Terminal 2) 65:45 Boirut, Paris (AF) 00:30 Damascus (P1) 09:15 Beirut (ME)

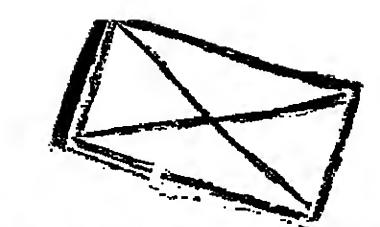
Banana 680 / 680 Banana (Mukammar) 620 / 620 Beans 540 / 450 Cabbage 70 / 40 Carrot 150/ 90 Cauliflower 25(V 190 Cucumbers (large) 120 / 80 Cucumbers (small) 240 / 190 Eggplant 300 / 180 Garlic 260 / 200 Grapefruit 240/ 180 Lemon 580 / 500 Mine80 Onion (dry) 230 / 160 Onion (green) 280 / 186

Orange 600/250

Potato 210/ 160

Totalo 520/ 300

Spinach 250 / 200 - /



Crown Prince sees off Jordan's peace-keepers

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal to carry out their duties in the Highness Crown Prince Hassan best manner and to safeguard Tuesday saw off soldiers from the Jordan's good reputation work-Jordanian Armed Forces who left dwide. for Croatia to replace the Jordahian Armed Forces personnel soldiers was part of a tour to Century increasing working as part of the United armed forces units currently on Nations peace-keeping forces military exercises.

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terales.

Prince Hassan conveyed to the briefing on stages of training. departing soldiers the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein and wished them every success in Forces and the Assistant Chief of their humanitarian tasks. Bediaung fund The Crown Prince urged them

Prince Hassan's visit to the The Crown Prince listened to a

Accompanying Prince Hassan were the Chief of Staff of Land Staff for Operations and Train-

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Turkish president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to Turkish President Suleiman Demirel, congratulating him on his election and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the Turkish people further progress and prosperity.

Public holiday to be observed May 25

AMMAN (Petra) — Tuesday May 25 will be observed as a public holiday in Jordan on the country's Independence Day anniversary. A statement issued by the Prime Minister's office Tuesday said all government departments and public institutions will be closed on that day.

Last Jordanian group arrives safely for Haj

MEDINA (Petra) - The last group of Jordanian Muslims performing this year's pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina arrived by land here Tuesday. A spokesman for the Jordanian official mission accompanying the pilgrims said that all arrived safely. The spokesman said the pilgrims will proceed to Mecca where they will perform the Haj religious rites. Meanwhile. Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Izzedine Al Khatib Al Tamini Tuesday, left for Saudi Arabia to head the Jordanian pilgrim

Minister reviews bilateral ties with visiting Romanian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) - Planning Minister Ziad Fariz Tuesday met with the Romanian Deputy Minister of Trade and reviewed with him bilateral relations in various fields. The two officials also discussed preparations for the meetings of the joint Jordanian-Romanian committee, to be held in Bucharest in July. Also discussed Tuesday was the possibility of concluding two new agreements on economic and technical cooperation between both countries. The meeting was attended by the ministry Secretary General Safwan Tougan.

Media group to review freedom of press

AMMAN (Petra) - "Freedom of the Press in Jordan" is the title of a day-long seminar which will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman Sunday. The Jordanian Media Society is organising the seminar which will be addressed by the RCC's Director lyad Qattan and several other prominent personalities.

Seminar to focus on privatisation

AMMAN (J.T.) - The Jordanian Businessmen's Association Monday will hold a seminar at Forte Grand Hotel in Amman. Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Suheimat will present a working paper at the seminar on "Privatisation and the Investment Climate in Jordan."

Jordan to attend international accountants meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the annual meeting of the board of directors of the Internation.! Accountants Federation which will be held in Mexico May 19. Representing Jordan at the meeting will be Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arab Certified Accountants Society Talal Abu Ghazaleh.

Jordan to participate in biodiversity meeting

AMMAN (Petra) - Jordan will take part in an international conference on protection and conservation of biodiversity to be held in Norway on May 24. Member of the Jordanian delegation to the conference. Fakhri Okour, who heads the Environmental Education and Information Section at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, said the conference is organised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in cooperation with the Norwegian Ministry of Environment. The conference seeks to follow up on the implementation of the 1992 Bio-diversity Agreement, signed by more than 160 countries.

European delegations begin to arrive for talks

AMMAN (Petra) - Several delegations from European countries will arrive in Amman within the next two weeks to hold talks with Jordanian officials on bilateral relations between Jordan and their countries, the situation in the region, the Middle East peace process and issues of common interest. These delegations will come from the Netherlands. Switzerland and Hungary. Swiss Deputy Foreign Minister Jacob Calinberger arrived here Tuesday for the talks.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of the Young Muslim Women's Society at the Royal Cuitural Centre.

Art exhibition entitled "Fragments: Weavings and Works on

- Paper" by Kevin A. Hluch and Margaret M. Hluch at the American Centre.
- MARKET PRICE & Exhibition of paintings by Suha Katibah Noursi at the Spanish
 - Art exhibition of works by artists from Jordan, Iraq and Morocco at Alia Art Gallery.
 - ☆ Children's Hustration exhibition by Lamia Abdul Sahib at the British Council.
 - Art exhibition by Patrice Pain at the French Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

Lecture, in Arabic, by Jabra L. Jabra, Dr. G. Sayegh and Professor Rafe' Nasirit on the painting exhibition "Legend of Petra II" of Suha Shoman at the National Gallery, Jabal Luwerbdeh — 6 p.m.

Film:

Film entitled "A Town Like Alice" at the British Council at 7 p.m.

heart surgeries end in success

By Elia Nasrallah Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A team of four cardiologists headed by Yousef Qousus, director of the Royal Medical Services, Tuesday successfully conducted three heart surgeries on two Jordanians and an Omani citizen.

The three operations were performed at the Queen Alia Heart Centre. Taking part in the six-hour

marathon sessions was Richard Schatz, a senior cardiologist at the University of California, who is now on a visit to Jordan. The three patients underwent similar coronary artery stenting operations in separate

sessions guided by Dr. Schatz, said Dr. Qousus. He told the Jordan Times that the first patient's operation involved implanting two

cylindrically-shaped stents made of stainless steel. These were introduced over a balloon and implanted across

the obstruction, he noted. According to Dr. Qousus the first patient was a physician who underwent coronary bypass surgery, 12-years ago, but the graft was found to have been blocked. His case was treated, with

the stents implanted in the obstructed graft, thus saving him another heart surgery that would have otherwise been required later, said Dr. Qousus. Similar successful operations, but with one stent only, were conducted on a woman from Oman and another Jordanian citizen, noted Dr.

He said the patients were resting comfortably at the hospital and were in good condi-

Qousus.

AIDS cases number 86 in Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Health Ministry Tuesday announced that the number of people who are registered as HIV positive or infected by the AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) virus since 1986 has reached 86.

The cases include 67 Jordanian citizens and 19 non-Jordanians, according to Saad Kharabseh, director of the Health Ministry's Department for Combating Dis-

Out of the total number, 56 were infected by the virus outside Jordan and 30 inside the Kingdom, said Dr. Kharabseh at the opening of a Health Ministryorganised workshop on AIDS in

In December 1992 Health Minister Aref Al Bataineh reported that the number of people registered as HIV positive in Jordan stood at 79, and noted that most of the cases resulted from blood transfusions conducted abroad.

Dr. Kharabseh told the workshop, which was organised in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO), that since the start of the 1980s until the end of 1992, 650,000 new AIDS cases have been diagnosed worldwide, adding that most of these were reported in the United, States, Africa and Europe, with fewer cases reported in Australia

and Asia. WHO estimates the number of AIDS cases to be three times the official number reported to the organisation, which means nearly two million AIDS cases appeared during the 1980-1992 period, Dr. Kharabseh said.

WHO also estimates that the world now has 12 million AIDS cases, many of which are persons considered as AIDS virus carriers who can endanger others, added Dr. Kharabseh.

Since 1986, the Health Ministry has conducted a series of public awareness campaigns through schools, universities and the media aimed at educating people on the dangers of AIDS and means of protecting themselves against the disease.

Participants in Tuesday's workshop, who included representatives of public and private sectors, hospitals and concerned groups, reviewed Jordan's health education progammes on pre-

venting the spread of AIDS. They discussed widening such programmes through the media.

Marathon Christians, Muslims should unite efforts to foster stability, coexistence — Patriarch

AMMAN (Petra) — Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem Michael Sabbah Tuesday underlined the importance for the Christian and Muslim communities in bolstering their cooperation to ensure further stability and co-existence within the Kingdom and throughout the Arab World. "We live through difficult times, and Christians and Muslims are together facing difficult circumstances and complicated situations, which call for them to unite their efforts and enhance

four-day conference by Catholic bishops of the Middle East. The Christians and Muslims in Jordan form one people and a united family, enjoying equal pri-

narch Sabbah. The theme of the conference. mainly Islamic-Christian relations; and it is hoped it will contribute to further strengthening the coexistence between the two peoples, Patriarch Sabbah

conference would further explain the church's role towards enhancing Islamic-Christian ties.

In the past two conferences, the bishops discussed the question of Arab Christians' presence and role in the Arab and Islamic worlds and debated two important documents related to this issue, said the patriarch.

But, he said, there is need for further efforts towards speeding up this process, and it is hoped that the conference will clarify the situation further before the Arab and Islamic worlds. Christian relations and dealings

national unity," said the patriarch range of issues related to daily in an address at the opening of a life, but most importantly to religious education, family life and participation in political, social and economic life, the patriarch These are all sensitive and

with the Muslims cover a wide

vileges and opportunities as advo- complicated issues, but they cated and guaranteed by His ought to be discussed so that Majesty King Hussein, said Pat-more stable relations will be attained, he added.

The Jerusalem patriarch went the third of its kind since 1991, is on to say that different interpretations of situations and attitudes had been given to these issues in the past causing confusion in concepts and leading to further complications and further misunderstanding of negative and He said it is also hoped that the positive aspects in the mutual relations.

dan, Monsignor Andrea Di Mon-



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday receives Catholic bishops of the Middle East

tezemolo, delivered an address on behalf of Page John Paul II reaffirming the Catholics' hopes to pursue useful dialogues with other faiths, something which, he said, is needed more now than ever before.

The conference seeks to reas-The Apostolic delegate to Jor- sent the Christian Arabs' involvement in the life of the Muslim

communities, while retaining their own line of Christian worship, said Monsignor Mon-

Catholic hishops from the Arab World and notable individuals from Jordan are taking part in the conference.

Tuesday received the Catholic Karaki.

bishons at the Royal Court The bishops expressed that gratitude for the Jordanian 😁 ernment's support and facilities they provided to the conference

King Hussem wished the .. ference every success. The audience was attended ! .. His Majesty King Hussein the Royal Court Chief Khali? V

Supply ministry to set up storage complexes

AMMAN (Petra) - The Ministry of Supply Tuesday announced plans for building or receiving supply complexes and warehouses in Madaba, Zarga, Irbid, Balqa and other regions, noting that these projects have an overall cost of JD 15 million.

Minister of Supply Mohammad 'Saggaf made the announcement upon signing a contract with a local firm for the construction of the Madaba supply complex at an estimated cost of JD 500,000. He said the complex will have a

storage capacity of 10,000 tonnes of food supplies kept in sacks or The ministry expects to receive a 20,000 tonne-capacity supply

complex in Zarga in two-months. These projects, he said, are part of the ministry's drive to ensure sufficient food reserves in the Kingdom to cope with

population growth.

Environmental protection campaign begins

AMMAN (Petra) - The Environment Department of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment is carrying out a national public awareness campaign on citizens' role in protecting the environment in Jordan, according to Director of the Department's Environmental Education Section Fawzi Al Ukour. Mr. Ukour said at the current stage, the campaign targets school students who constitute 30 per cent of Jordan's population.

Visiting Hungarian envoy voices concern for Mideast, Bosnia Herzegovina situations AMMAN (Petra) - His Majesty

King Hussein Tuesday received a message from the Hungarian president, containing an invitation for the King to visit Hungaria. The message was delivered to

King Hussein by the under secretary at the Hungarian Foreign Ministry, Andrash Kaldman, who was received in an audience with His Majesty. Also present at the audience

was the director of the Arab Department at the Hungarian foreign ministry. The two officials conveyed con-

gratulations of the Hungarian president to King Hussein on the 40th anniversary of the assumption of his constitutional powers. King Hussein praised the ties of friendship between both coun-

tries and voiced Jordan's interest

in further bolstering these rela-

tions on the basis of mutual respect and cooperation. King Hussein stressed the need for addressing pressing issues as a prelude to achieving a secure future based on justice, peace,

stability, respect for human rights, freedoms and democracy. The Hungarian officials praised Jordan's democratic achievements and Jordan's approach in addressing international and re-

gional crisis. issues of common concern to The audience was attended by



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday receives Secretary Andrash Kaldman at the Rouse visiting Hungarian Foreign Ministry Under Court

Royal Court Chief Khalid Al Jordan and Hungary.

Kaldman also discussed the situations in the Middle East and Bosnia-Herzegovina with Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber and the Speaker of the Senate during separate meetings here Tuesday. Accompanied by an official delegation, Mr. Kaldman discussed with Dr. Abu Jaber Hungarian-Jordanian economic, trade and

cultural relations. Mr. Kaldman, who arrived earlier Tuesday on a three-day visit to Jordan, later called on Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi to discuss

The Hungarian envoy was quoted as saying his country was concented over events in the Middle East.

He said Hungary calls for the implementation of U.N. resoluforce should not determine the destiny of nations like those in Middle East.

In paying tribute to His Majesty King Hussein for his continued efforts for peace, the Hungarian official said that his country appreciates Jordan's participation in the U.N. peace-keeping forces

to help preserve world peace. He also said his country hope. to bolster Hungarian-Jordan... ties and cooperation in par-

hamentary affairs.

The Hungarian official, also extended an invitation to Mr. tions, as it believes the use of Lawzi to visit Hungary at the nead of a Jordanian parliamentary delegation, listened to ... Bosnia-Herzegovina and the briefing on Jordan's political stand regarding the Middle Eu: and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr. Lawzi said Jordan b. S. .. Hungary's call for the implementation of U.N. resolutions can the situations in the Middle Eca: and the former Yugoslavia.

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein received at the Royal Court Royal Jordanian (RJ) President and Chief Executive Officer Mahmoud Jamai Balgez who presented him with a gift on the 40th anniversary of the King's assumption of his constitutional powers. The gift came from the RJ staff in appreciation of King Hussein's role in promoting the national carrier's role among international airlines

Transiting Polish team visits House speaker

AMMAN (J.T) — A three- the region. member Polish parliamentary de- The delegation members project legation headed by Stefan Pastus- osed the formation of a term zewski, made a stop over in Am- Jordanian-Polish committee :: man before leaving for Baghdad look into means of developing later Tuesday on a four-day offi- relations between both countries. cial visit to Iraq.

courtesy visit to Speaker of the velopment of relations with the Lower House of Parlaiment Polish parliament and called on Abdul Latif Arbiyat, with whom all nations of the world to parties. they discussed the possibility of pate in shaping the features ::: developing bilateral relations in new world order, capable of !:::the parliamentary field.

The delegation members paid a Dr. Arabiyat welcomed the ic-Mr. Pastuszewski voiced his previous order.

in all fields.

ing the injustices done by the The delegation will pay a onecountry's interest in strengthen-

ing bilateral relations with Jordan, day visit to Jordan Saturday on and praised Jordan's democra- their way back from Baghdaid, tisation process, saying that it according to Polish embassy qualifies it to play a major role in sources.

Taxi owners union affairs under investigation

Member asserts complaint initiated by angry employee By a Jordan Times aware of its contents. But Fuad Al Badri, one of its "You have reached me over

Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Authorities are investigating the affairs of the Union of Taxi Owners in Jordan the union. following allegations of embezzlement and violations of the statute of the organisation, union officials said Tuesday.

Officials from the Prosecutor-General's office Monday visited the union and took possession of documents for scrutiny after a complaint was filed with the authorities, they said.

Local reports said the complaint, which charged that union officials were misappropriating union funds and violating regulations laid down in the charter of the union, was filed by 18 taxi

Abdullah Kaisi, president of the administrative council of the union, was not available for com-

members, asserted that the affair was initiated by someone he described as a disgruntled employee who was under investigation by

"He (the employee) filed the

complaint obviously with a view

to retaliating for the action we are taking against him," said Mr. Badri. "We are as surprised as anyone that reports said the complaint was filed by a group of taxi office

owners," he told the Jordan Mr. Badri denied that there was any ground for charges of embezzlement and violations at

the union and said: "We do have a proper accounting system and have regular auditing, and our books are open for the members to inspect any-

time they want." The union official also rejected reports that the authorities had sealed the premises of the union.

the phone at the union office, and that in itself shows that there is no scaling off the premises of the union," he told the Jordan

"Our workshop is also open and is functioning normally." he

Mr. Badri identified the employee whom he accused of starting the affair and said the man was working with the union for over 10 years as a mechanic in its workshop, where taxi metres are installed and repaired under an authority given by the concerned government department.

The man named by Mr. Badri could not be reached immediately. Nor was it known whether it was the same person mentioned in a local report as a union "engineer who confessed to the authorities."

Dozens of taxi offices contacted by the Jordan Times on Tuesday said they were not party to the complaint and were not

"Affairs of the union had althe authorities off and on.

An official who answered the phone at the prosecutor-general's office said the authorities will not have any commen since the mat-

ter is still under investigation. Precise details of the complaint were not available, but it was the latest in a series of charges involving the union in the past several

vears. 250 taxi offices and estimated 7.000 taxi drivers in Jordan. It collects JD 10 in annual subscription from the taxi offices and JD 9 per vehicle — a total re-

venue of close to JD 65,000. and the union makes no profit on voters.

"The maintenance charge con... ways been controversial," said es to half a dinar a month reg. 74. the owner of a taxi office who less of the number of times a time. declined to be named. "It is not metre might be inspected and surprising that such issues reach repaired at our workshop." in

said. "Whenever spare parts are required, we charge the actual cust only and there is no labour cast,"

he said. Many taxi-drivers charge than the union is levying high costs to. the spares as well as new merces. since it is the sole authority in the

field. They also assert that they are not get proper service and some. The union represents all the times have to wait for days before getting their metres repaired. Such delays, they say, deprive them of their livelihood since

they cannot operate in the streets with faulty metres, Union elections had also drawn According to Mr. Badri, the controversies, with various sides levy on taxis includes JD 6 in charging each other of trying to

maintenance charges for metres. buy votes and of intimidating

Jordan Times

Established 1975

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Hope despite negativism

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein set the right tone for peace in the Middle East when he voiced a certain measure of optimism about the ongoing peace process despite the fact that the last round appeared deadlocked on all fronts. In an interview with French Television Monday, the King confirmed that there is still optimism with regard to the Arab-Israeli peace talks despite the series of setbacks.

"I am optimistic," the monarch said, "in the sense that there is a peace chance." The King went on to warn that the present peace opportunity is the last chance to achieve comprehensive, just and lasting peace between the children of Abraham. The alternative "will be extremely bleak for the region."

In retrospect, the "failure" of the ninth round of bilateral peace parleys may not be all that real. There are several features in the last minute U.S. compromise text that are not totally negative. The Palestinians in fact saw some positive elements in the Israeli plan for Palestinian interim self-government formula after first rejecting it outright. If the Israeli scheme for the initial plan for self-rule was not found completely lacking at the end, then surely the U.S. compromise could be regarded as some kind of improvement on the draft Israeli plan.

After the dust has settled on the just ended round of bilateral peace negotiations; there are increasing signals that the situation is not all that hopeless. Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi indicated Sunday in Tunis that her side will continue the dialogue with the U.S. "with a view to producing a statement of principles." This means that the intent is still there to pursue the peace talks vigorously come the next round.

On other fronts, Suheil Shamas, the leader of the Lebanese negotiating team in the Washington bilateral peace talks, has only praise for the U.S. active involvement. The head of the Syrian delegation Dr. Muwafaq Allaf, while clearly critical of the ninth round of negotiations, described it as serious.

Against this backdrop, all parties need to exert additional effort to salvage the peace process, beginning with Israel which has yet to translate its acceptance of the applicability of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 to the occupied Arab territories into reality.

The warning of His Majesty King Hussein must not fall on deaf ears, for indeed the alternative is too dreadful to even contemplate.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Tuesday commented on a statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin which he stressed that Israel will not offer "good-will initiatives free to the Arabs." This statement can only reflect Israel's intransigent position at the negotiating table and its attitude which was obvious during the past nine session, the paper said. Furthermore, the against escalation of repression ongoing the Palestinians gives further proof that Rabin means what he says, the paper said. Mr. Rabin seems to be defying world community rules by ignoring the fact that abidance by the international legitimacy is imperative for Israel as it is for other nations, it continued. While the Arabs continue to show commitment to the peace process and to a lasting and honorable settlement, we hear the Israeli prime minister demanding a price for Israel's compliance with the international rules, the paper added. This is blackmail, exercised by Israel against the world community in general and the Arabs in particular, the paper stressed. It said that Mr. Rabin has to understand that the Arab countries' good intentions reflect their civilised attitude which is a requirement for the peace process to succeed. Only when Mr. Rabin respects this reality and deals with the peace process in a matter reflecting integrity and honesty can the doors for peace be open for all, the paper said.

SAWT AL SHAAB daily echoed a call by His Majesty King Hussein, in an interview with the French Television Monday, in which he warned against missing the present last chance for reaching peace. In his interview, the King was careful to note that the Middle East continues to suffer from the "residues of history" and from the lingering conflicts, tension and lack of stability. Even the Islamic faith did not escape the attempts of hostite forces which, the King said, are bent on distorting the true face of Islam and its true essence and nature. The paper echoed the King's warning that if the present chance to establish peace is lost, then the door will be wide open for further violence, strife, instability and insecurity. The time has come for the world community to respect the desires and aspirations of the people of this region. and the time has come for its peoples to wake up and shape up their own destiny, the paper said. It added that the Middle Eastern nations have long suffered from tension and conflicts and they have a right to security and stability like other nations of the world.

FACTS OF HISTORY

Not much has changed since the British left Palestine in 1948

By Pascal B. Karmy

May 15, 1948 marked the date of the termination of the British mandate over Palestine, one of the blackest milestones in the history of Palestine, which reflects adversely on the history of Great Britain when it was the

mandatory power over Palestine. The British left Palestine in complete chaos and anarchy. Even before May 15 the mandatory power did not try or rather was unwilling to commit its forces to establish law and order. This was incumbent upon it in accordance with the mandate provisions as stipulated in the League of Nations Covenant and inasmuch as "the well-being and the development of the people of Palestine was a sacred trust of civilisation," in practice the sacred trust of Great Britain. Had it not been for the unlamented. Balfour Declaration of 1917 and the extremely biased British policv towards the Jews. Palestine would have attained independence and become a state just as Syria and Lebanon had obtained their independence at the termination of the French mandate.

The British rule in Palestine was shameful and marred, for the Palestinians, the British sense of justice. British forces persecuted and repressed the Arabs, hanged many of them, imprisoned them without trial, exiled their leaders and detained them in the Seychelles and South Africa; some of them died in exile. The Emergency Defence Regulations of 1936 were strictly applied to the Arabs but rarely to the Jews. Those regulations were first enacted by the British government in Palestine in 1936 in order, among other matters, to detain without trial Palestinian Arabs for their rebellion against the Balfour Declaration and Jewish immigration. Those regulations were supplemented by Israeli Defence Laws, applied to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. On the other hand except for a few exceptions, the British authorities treated the Jews with leniency and their terrorists with indulgence although they committed atrocious crimes against the British, such as the blowing up of the King David Hotel, the centre of administration of the Palestine government, and the killing of British soldiers, hanging them from the trees.

The British closed their eyes to the shipment of arms and ammunition to the Hagana and other terrorist Jewish organisations while the British military courts tried and imprisoned any Arab found with the most primitive arms or bullets in his possession. It was even prohibited for any Arab to carry a dagger, for which offence he was liable for six

months imprisonment. The British never stopped the immigration of Jews to Palestine despite Arab protests, demonstrations, strikes and revolt. Only during World War II did the British suspend the immigration of Jews to Palestine to win the Arabs to the side of the Allies in the war. This suspension of immigration was decided upon the recommenation of Lord Moyne, the British resident in Cairo who. as a result of this recommendation, was killed by Yitzhak Shamir's gang.

The British policy in Palestine favoured the Jews in any way and thus, at the end of the mandate, the balance of forces was entirely tilted in favour of the Jews in Palestine. In actual fact, since the inception of the mandate in 1922, the British prepared the grounds for the creation of the Jewish state. And as a British ex-deputy director of a United Nations organisation once told me: "It was a crime we British made, to have greatly helped the creation of Israel." Indeed since the end of the mandate and the creation of Israel in the middle of the Arab World, wars, turmoil and anarchy have prevailed. The wellknown Lebanese writer, the late Michel Chiha, never ceased to write in the Lebanese newspaper "Le Jour" warning the western powers against the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine as he rightly forecast that they would sow the seeds of wars, hatred and turmoil in the Middle East.

"In actual fact, since the inception of the mandate in 1922, the British prepared the ground for the creation of the Jewish state."

The British government should not have relinquished its authority to the United Nations in 1947 before establishing an efficacious Palestinian self-government to govern the country as required by Article 2 of the Palestine mandate. This article was imposed upon the mandatory power to develop self-governing institutions and to safeguard the civil and religious rights of all the inhabitants. It is true that the same article imposed upon it the responsibility for the establishment of a national home in Palestine for the Jewish people, but not to make all of Palestine a national home for the Jews. The distinction is quite obvious.

Consequently, with the lack of self-governing institutions in Palestine on the termination of the mandate insecurity reigned all over the country. The Palestinian Arabs sought to prevent the partition of their ancestral homeland. The Jews, better organised and armed by the East and the West, established the Jewish state on May 14. 1948, not on the lines determined by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution of Nov. 29, 1947, but a Jewish state that would be free of all Palestinian Arabs. To achieve this-purpose, Israel systematically expelled Palestinians by force where terrorism failed to compel their departure. The creation of Israel was described as a process with the intent of ridding Israel of the majority of the Arab population. Even today, some Israeli leaders and politicians are openly advocating the "transfer", in effect expulsion, of Palestinians. not only those of the West Bank and Gaza Strip but also the present Arab citizens of Israel.

Economic Forum

By Dr. Abdallah Maiki

Overtaxed citizens could pay more for imported goods

One of the knottiest economic problems facing Jordan now is how the treasury can raise adequate domestic revenues to finance its expenditures without having to borrow. Now public revenues grow constantly; any measures aimed at checking these expenditures may very well lead to lower growth rates but not to negative growth. Rodolph Wagner coined a law which rightly states that public

we had tried our hand at solving the shortage of public funds through compressing public expenditures, but found out that this approach could not alone remedy the ailment. Therefore, a policy of aggressive taxation was initiated in 1989 and is still going on.

Again, the more-tax policy ran against capacity constraints. The Jordanians have been paying much more taxes than their taxable capacity, meaning that their tax effort is dangerously high. This situation cannot continue without jeopardising the economic and social fabric of society.

The formidable question therefore is how to increase public revenues without hiking tax rates or introducing new taxes (and fees). This is a question which challenges all parties in Jordan. We do not have a clear-cut answer, but we have a suggestion for a way out. It is our conviction that the Jordanian fiscal problem can be solved only in the long run and that Jordan has therefore to depend on foreign grants in the short and medium terms. In the long run, the only alternative to tax increases is the broadening of the tax base, which can be achieved only through stimulation of production incentives.

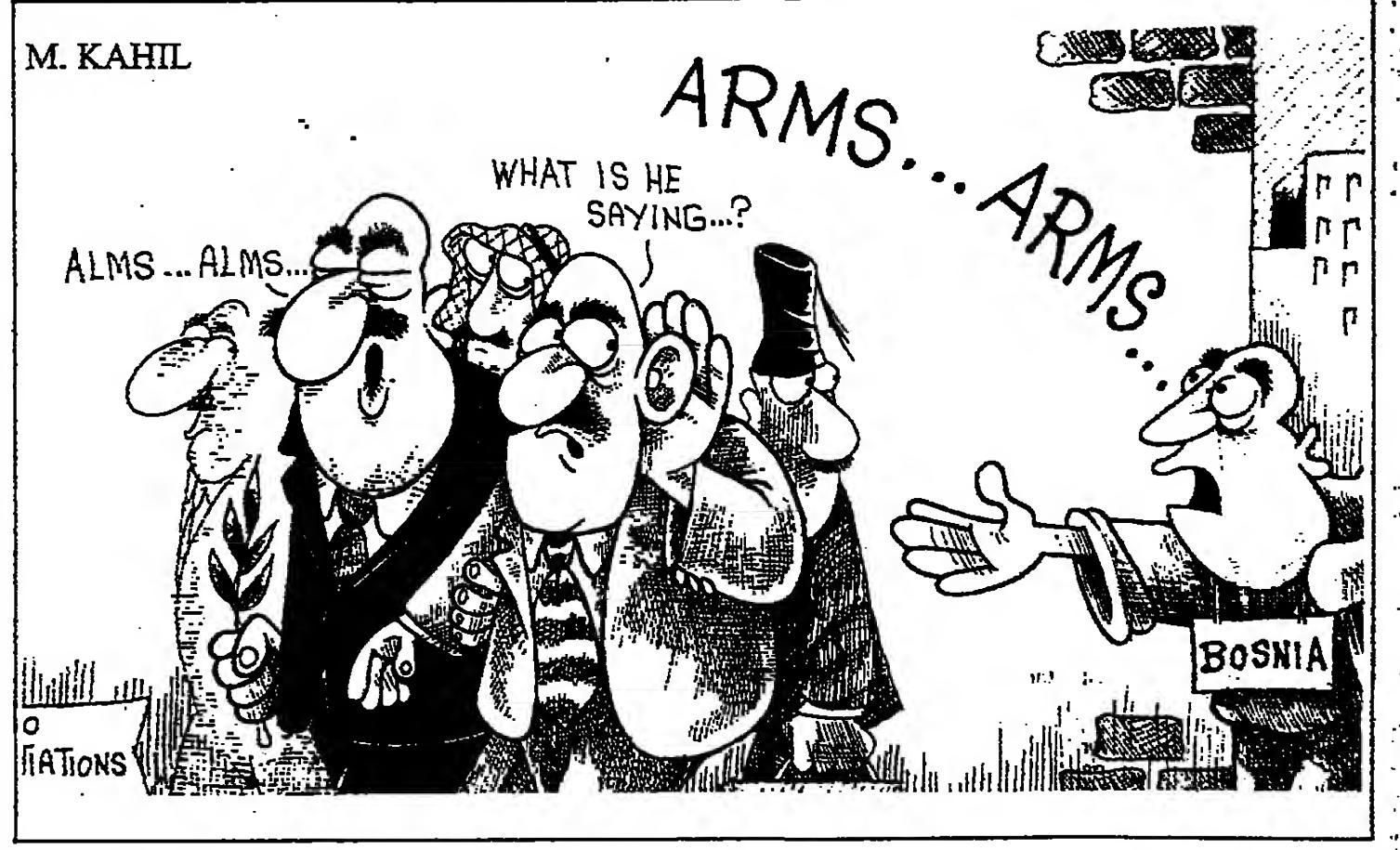
Now this is a solution whose fruits come by only late and sometimes very late and therefore can easily and readily be rejected

by the impatient politicians and technocrats of the day Our suggestion is that customs duties are the tax that has to be hiked if a suggestion is that customs duties are the tax that has to be hiked if a

Raising customs duties has the double advantage of serving the treasury and providing protection for domestic products. And let us remember that domestic products here do not mean only industrial remember that domestic products here do not mean only industrial ones, whose protection is much rescuted by the IMI selimil of ones, whose protection is much rescuted by the IMI selimil of thought. Domestic products include also agricultural production (dairy products for example) and services. If higher thirlfs are accurately targetted as to hit luxuries, they will suck money from the pockets of high-income groups whose demand for these luxuries is not deterred by higher prices.

If higher tariff rates deter importation, that will be a very destrable outcome which has to be hailed even if it means stagnant or even lower tax proceeds as this means conserving foreign exchange and making it available for tackling external indebtedness. Additionally, lower imports entail normally corresponding uses in domestic autput which will generate fresh tax proceeds.

We do believe that increasing customs duties is ideally suited for a country like Jordan which encounters both a fiscul problem and a balance of payments one. Maybe the philosophy of free international trade and the universal vision that the IMF adopts and tries to enforce wherever it sponsors economic adjustment programmes make it difficult, or even impossible, for Jordan to follow this course of action. But this will be a mistake with which our government has to expect, and face all sorts of popular resentments and reactions which fiscal tightening entails.



New U.S. embassy tests Ukrainian diplomacy

By Rostislav Khotin Reuter

WASHINGTON — The way Ukrainian Ambassador Oleh Bilorus tells it, being the top diplomat to Washington of a new state in severe financial difficulties is no easy task.

Premises have to be found, leases signed, deals struck with real estate agents, housing found for diplomats.

To say nothing of diplomatic quagmires when your country's parliament ignores admonitions from the most powerful state in the world on an issue as fundamental as nuclear disarma-

for bilorus and his team of 10 diplomats, acquiring an 18th century building in the U.S. capital

was almost as important a symbol of statehood as a flag and an anthem after winning independence from the Soviet Union.

"No one offered us anything, not the U.S. government, no one. We looked at 20 buildings and this was the only suitable one," Mr. Bilorus said in an interview. "But it cost 15 million and we could afford no more than four or

five million."

Ukraine, the second most powerful former Soviet Republic with 52 million people, is taking

foreign affairs seriously and, 17 months after independence, has established 25 embassies.

The Kiev government, locked in difficult negotiations with Moscow over dividing up former Soviet property abroad above

cow over dividing up former Soviet property abroad, abandoned all hope of getting any of the 18 buildings used by the Russian embassy's 500 employees in Washington.

Ukrainian diplomats, unused to hard-nosed negotiating in real estate markets, began a process of bringing down the price of the building — holding firm as the owners rolled back to \$12 million and then \$8 million.

Beating back competition from other buyers, the embassy finally snapped up the building for \$4 million after the Kiev government urgently provided the money in cash.

Then more trouble began. The building, in which George Washington took the decision to move the U.S. capital from Philadelphia to Washington in the 1790s, was designated as an architectural monument.

"We needed the permission of the U.S. government because it was considered part of the American heritage," Mr. Bilorus said. "We managed to persuade the

government it was in the United States' political and strategic interests to demonstrate how important it viewed relations with Ukraine."

The embassy, in fashionable Georgetown on the banks of the Potomac River, has since doubled in value.

Relations with Russian diplomats are not always cordial.

The battle over property is in the forefront of everyone's mind. Russia has tried to press for a deal under which it would assume responsibility for \$80 billion in

"The Russians didn't give us a single square metre and I'm certain we will get nothing," Mr. Bilorus said. "Expecting naively

former Soviet debts while taking

over most property abroad.

Bilorus said. "Expecting naively to be given something would get us nothing but humiliation."

The embassy's trade attache, Serhiy Kulyk, tells of the time

Serhiy Kulyk, tells of the time Russia's consul-general in San Francisco welcomed him as a "guest in a Russian house" in the

"This really bothered me," he said. "I just kept thinking to myself: 'In what way was this a Russian house?' It's so unfair. Russia did not inherit Soviet property, but merely expropriated it."

In political terms, diplomats are cutting their teeth on the dispute with Washington over the Kiev parliament's delays in ratifying two treaties enshrining Ukraine's non-nuclear status.

The United States has express-

ed concern over the failure to approve the START-I and Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaties. Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma

cancelled a visit after U.S. newspapers said President Bill Clinton had refused to meet him.

"The Bush administration made a fetish out of START and it appears the Clinton administration is doing the same." said Valery Kuchinsky, an adviser to Mr. Bilorus.

"START should not occupy the entire range of our relations. The problem is in implementing the accord. That poses far greater difficulties than ratification itself," said Mr. Kuchinsky.

The main problem for embassy "

staff remains chronic shortages of money in an expensive foreign capital.

For his official car. Mr. Bilorus has had to settle for a Lincoln

has had to settle for a Lincoln.
"not really suitable for an ambassador", according to one diplomat.

Even foreign telephone

Even foreign telephone calls require his approval.

"Any foreign call over eight his minutes is an economic crime."

"Any foreign call over eight in minutes is an economic crime against mother Ukraine," reads a sucker appended to all phones in the former Soviet republic's U.N. mission in New York.

LETTERS

Give our lungs a break

To the Editor:

I was very pleased to read the article on the priority Jordan gives to environmental protection ("Environmental protection efforts outlined at U.N.-sponsored meeting," Jordan Times, May 17, 1993). I am also very pleased with the new era of openness that our young democracy has heralded in, which has given people like myself the courage to address publicly a variety of issues, environment being one on top of the agenda.

Take exhaust emissions from vehicles, for example. I know there is a law in place somewhere, but what are we doing about it? We get fined for all sorts of things on the roads, isn't it high time we got fined for this violation of the law? It is truly grim breathing these fumes going about doing our various chores.

Aysar Akrawi, P.O. Box 35095, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to manuscripts.

Success of Yemeni elections prompts worries for Saudis

THE ARRIVAL in Sanaa last week of senior envoys from the U.S. and Saudi Arabia has underscored the growing international significance attached to the successful outcome of Yemen's April

As the first multi-party poll ever held in the Arabian Peninsula, the Yemeni elections have been viewed as a potential harbinger of democratic change in the Arab World. But the U.S. and Saudi envoys, while granting qualified praise to the Yemeni achievement, have nonetheless sought to limit it in the interests of regional etability.

of regional stability. Mr. David Mack, the U.S. deputy secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, affirmed U.S. support for Yemen's transition to democracy, but Mr. Mack warned Yemenis against thinking they could impose their political "blueprint" on neighbouring countries. "It is important to remember that no country has a blueprint for democracy in another country ... So I don't think you should look on what you do here as a model for anyone else to follow," he told

Yemeni journalists.

Mr. Mack denied that Saudi Arabia or any other country in the region has expressed concern over the Yemeni elections and said that governments in the area were not "surprised" at U.S. support for democracy in Yemen. That view was apparantly confirmed by a visit by Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Khuwaytir, Saudi Ara-

By Eric Watkins

But diplomats in Sanaa suggest that Dr. Al Khuwaytir's visit is an outward show of support which masks deeper Saudi concerns. "The Saudi regime is very concerned about the Yemeni turn to democracy and in particular, about the successful outcome of the elections. The last thing Saudi royalty wants on its doorstep is a successful little democracy in Yemen," one western di-

bia's education minister.

A Gulf diplomat suggests that the Saudis may also be concerned about a potential Yemeni threat to their hegemony in the region. "The Saudis are taking a longer view of political development in the area and recognise that in 10-15 years Yemen could be an important political rival in the

Arabian Peninsula. Already other Gulf countries are looking upon Yemen with interest. So it is better for the Saudis to appear friendly at this point than to appear unfriendly and run into trouble down the road," he said.

Yemen's leaders, aware of the

Saudi unease, have already stated their disinclination to impose their new political model elsewhere. "Other people may have something to learn from their example, but we are not looking to teach them anything. We are not in the business of exporting democracy," Vice President Ali Salem Al Beidh told the Financial Times before the elections.

Yemen's voting resulted in no clearcut majority for any party, but between them the current ruling coalition of the General People's Congress (GPC) and the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) won enough of the 301 seats in parliament to form a government. In power since the unification of North and South Yemen nearly three years ago, the GPC and YSP have signed a political charter renewing their alliance—Financial Times.

The return of the mummies

By Tom Porteous

Dr. Ibrahim Bakr

human body.

"The study of the tombs them-

selves led us to the conclusion

that if we were to reduce the

activity of the microbes and the

bacteria, it was very important to

reduce the percentage of oxygen

in the mummy's environment,"

says Dr. Iskander, "After burial,

the tomb was closed and there

was an almost complete separa-

tion between the atmosphere in-

side and outside the tomb. This is

because the tomb is situated very

deep in the mountains and at the

end of a long passage. For this

Organisation signed an agree-

ment with the Gerry Institute of

Conservation in Los Angeles —'

one of the wealthiest organisa-

tions of its kind — under which

CAIRO - "You're not frightened are you?" inquires Dr. Nasr Iskander as he approaches the table. To see a dead body is always an the the day the papresome experience. But it is particularly so when that body is more than 3000 years old and belongs to a great king who, in his time, was regarded as a deity.

Dr. Iskander does not wait for an answer. Gravely he pulls on his white coat and peels back a sheet to reveal the head and shoulders of an Egyptian pharaoh, hands crossed on his chest in the long, deep sleep of death. What is most extraordinary about seeing the mummy is its almost perfect state of preservation from the nails and hair to the skin tissue and even the facial expression. The normal process of decay has been arrested since the earliest days of history.

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"I think," says Dr. Iskander theal problem and "that the ancient Egyptians knew - not what the meaning of microbes and viruses was — but they :Iment programe. knew that the stability of the climate is responsible for preserving mummies. That's why the and reactions whe mummies were buried in one coffin inside another coffin, inside another coffin inside a tomb closed with one door, two doors, three doors: to preserve the stability of the climate inside the tomb. I have no evidence, but the way it was done looks like it was scientific. I am not saying that it was laboratory work, but at least it was trial and error."

Whatever it was that the ancient Egyptians used in developing their burial techniques - intuition, luck, trial and error,



This meticulously preserved mummy is thought to be an Egyptian lady of noble birth who lived during the 17th

dynasty — 1570-1650 B.C. (WNL photo) one of the main reasons for the or science — Dr. Iskander is convinced, not only that the cliextraordinary state of preserva-

ancient Egyptians were found after thousands of years; but also that to recreate this climate is the best and most efficient way to preserve the mummies in modern collections.

It was the discovery in 1972 of the tomb of Nefer at the famous step pyramid of Saggara that put Dr. Iskander on the track of tomb climatology. Nefer was the court musician of one of the kings of the fifth dynasty in the Old King-dom, and Dr. Iskander was surprised and fascinated to find his mummy in such good condition, The archaeologist started to study the microclimate of the tomb for clues, and his findings encouraged him to apply the same environmental tests to other tombs in the Nile Valley. Gradually Dr. Iskander pieced together the evidence for a scientific relationship between the climate of the tombs and the state of the mummies found in them.

"With time," says Dr. Iskander "I found myself deeply convinced that the two parameters of temperature and humidity were actually responsible for the condition of any of our mummies in any of our tombs."

It was a short step from this conclusion to the idea of building the special showcases in which the microclimate of the tombs could be recreated — an idea which has now paved the way for the forthcoming reopening of the long closed exhibition of royal mummies at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.

It has been a costly project, but in 1986 the Egyptian Antiquities

and the world outside, there was - over the years and centuries a gradual fall in the level of oxygen within the tomb, says Dr. Iskander. The reason for this is that the growth of microbes and bacteria and the rust of metals in the tomb absorbed the oxygen by the process of oxidisation. Eventually, in the best sealed tombs the level of oxygen falls to as low as 1 per cent. At the same time, the level of nitrogen rises.

Based on data built up over years of studying the tombs of the Nile Valley, Dr. Iskunder has come up with parameters which can be applied to produce the optimum environment for the preservation of the mummies. "After studying the microbe and virus activity in different levels of oxygen and humidity, we found that if we are below 2 per cent of oxygen we are almost safe from the activity of the microbes and bacteria, and if we are below 40 per cent relative humidity then

the institute would come up with the design of a prototype showwe are almost safe from the activcase for the royal mummies of the ity of nonaerobic bacteria or bacteria which don't need oxygen to Egyptian Museum — a showcase which controls the interior live and can live on inorganic temperature, humidity, levels of material." oxygen and nitrogen, as well as The prototype showcase which infra-red and ultra-violet rays. met these requirements was de-"It looks like an incubator," signed and put together by the Getty Institute and donated to says Dr. Iskander waving his

hand at the sealed cases which are the Egyptian Museum in 1989. now installed in the exhibition Since then, the institute has proroom. But instead of keeping vided the Egyptian Antiquities very young human beings alive. Organisation (EAO) with 27 these "incubators" are keeping cases, corresponding to the numvery old ones as dead as possible. ber of royal mummies in the The reason why the climate of the Egyptian collection. The EAO has also been successfully reprotombs is so suitable to the preservation of the mummies is that ducing the showcase in Egypt it limits the activity of the live using locally available materials. According to Dr. Ibrahim viruses, bacteria and microbes which are the main causes of the putrefaction and decay of the

Bakr, the chairman of the EAO, the exhibition of the royal mummies is almost ready for opening. It will be the first time in well over a decade that the mummies have been on public display. "The main reason why the room was closed," says Dr. Bakr "was because the mummies were being damaged."

Humidity, oxidisation, and temperature were partly responsible. So also were the vibrations caused by thousands of visitors a year and the endless rumble of Cairo's busy traffic in Tahrir Square where the museum is situated.

reason too, the temperature and But another reason why the exhibition was closed was that the late pressure inside the tomb remain President Sadat felt that it was With this separation between somehow undignified to display the bodies of ancient Egyptian the environment inside the tomb

rulers. "That was an idea at that time," acknowledges Dr. Bakr. "We cannot bury the mummies again, as was thought in the past. So they are there in the museum and they will be exhibited in a respectable way with some photographs and some objects from the same period. The room will be well lit and air-conditioned."

museum's mummies exhibition. March, two bombs went off in mummy of Ramses II. Tahrir Square and one was targeted specifically at museum gamma rays to kill all the mic-

ing the relative humidity to re- portation are very critical. So it's quired levels. But it has to be not practical." done very slowly to prevent damage to the mummies.

weeks - very slowly and gradual- the pursuit of knowledge. ly. And bit by bit we calculate

conditioning system.

Once a showcase has been loaded and its atmosphere adjusted according to the parameters outlined above, the mummy is ready for display. But each case must be subject to continuous observation and checks.

"If the atmophere remains stable for six weeks, then it There is another strong reason should be OK for five years." for the reopening of the says Dr. Iskunder. "But all the same we keep checking it every The Egyptian government has one, two or three months." Dr. made it clear that a main priority. Iskander acknowledges that it is a at present is the promotion of complex system, but he claims tourism - one of the country's that it is simpler, more reliable main sources of revenue - which and less costly than the other has been badly hit by an escala- hi-tech preservation system which tion of political violence. In the French developed for the

"The French system is to apply robes," says Dr. Iskunder. "Then "It was very bad to close such a the mummy is put in a sterilised very important item as the mum- showcase under a flow of air mies exhibition," says Dr. Bakr. which passes through two verv "As you know, the mummies are small biological filters to prevent very attractive to visitors and any viruses or bacteria from entourists, especially when they are tering the showcase, and to prethe mummies of pharaohs of vent what is inside from passing Egypt. So the reopening is part of out. But it is very complicated the effort to promote tourism." because you have to transport the The process of preparing the mummy to a reactor to apply new showcases has been long and gamma rays every so often. This painstaking. First of all, the ox- is not only expensive but very vgen inside the cases has to be dangerous for the mummy. The removed by pumping in nitrogen. mummy should not be moved, This also has the effect of reduct because the vibrations of trans-

Dr. Iskander says the system he and his team are installing "If we suddenly reduce the should keep the mummies in a humidity level from 60 to 40 per stable condition for the foreseecent, this would cause direct able future — the next 50 years cracks in the surface of the skin of As an archaeologist, Dr. Iskanthe mummies," explains Dr. der's main motivation is not the Iskander. "So we do this over six health of the tourist industry, but

"The mummies tell us very these amounts of humidity and much about history and science. nitrogen and we draw maps and so their preservation is very imgraphs and charts to be sure that portant. Now we are studying the everything is in order and we DNA - the genetic makeup of keep observing all the mum- the mummies. We can study the family relationships between The problem of vibrations has different mummies and the aging been solved by attaching pieces of of the mummies. We can tell how rubber to the legs of the show- old they were when they died and cases and installing a special rub- we can compare this with the ber carpet for the whole exhibi- written history to check it. The tion room. And although the Egyptian tourist industry is the EAO cannot control the amount least reason to preserve these of traffic passing through Tahrir mummies. We are keeping them Square, it will be controlling the for the future. We do not know number of visitors to the mum- what might happen in the future mies' room itself and the length in terms of new discoveries of the of their visits. Humidity caused coming generations. But we have by the visitors will also be dealt to preserve them as they are for with by an efficient air- the future" - World News Link.

Income-generating programme in Gaza provides funds, hope

By A. Lin Neumann

GAZA STRIP — The adjectives usually attached to the Gaza Strip are far from complimentary. This harsh corner of the occupied territory, wedged between Egypt and Israel, is a tiny land beset by turmoil and despair. Fenced off from Israel to the north and east and from Egypt to the south, the Mediterranean Sea on the west completes the sense of isolation and imprisonment that pervades life in the Gaza Strip. Poor, sanitation and overcrowding. Abu Rizik felt, was diversificamake daily life a challenge and Byzantine security measures reguire most male residents to carry a wallet full of identity cards and permits just to get around witharousing the ire of the Israeli occupation forces. It is a nervous, depressing place.

Over 775,000 people are packed into just 360 square kilometres in Gaza. The eight refugee camps - where over one third of Gaza's people live — are some of the most densely populated areas on earth. Gaza has been especially hard hit by the intifada because of its reputation as the seedbed of the uprising. In the last several years, Israeli reaction to the intifada has cut off most Gazan residents — three-fourths of whom are UNRWA-registered Palestine refugees — from the ident is in impleted former jobs inside Israel resulting in an unemployment rate in the per cent. Not surprisingly, Gaza is one of UN-

RWA's most demanding fields. Given these conditions, it's also no surprise that here in the Gaza Strip UNRWA has found an enthusiastic reception for its recent emphasis on supporting income-generation projects in-

"I think now, for the time being, we have to establish something for our people," explained has applied Freij Tarazi, UNRWA's incomegeneration officer for Gaza. "The with the problem has been money. But now we can start something."

What I MID WA. problem has been money. But

What UNRWA has started in Gaza is essentially a fledgling development bank making modest loans to local entrepreneurs. It is the agency's way of mitigating the dire economic consequences of continued Israeli occupation. For some recipients, it is a chance to leave the ranks of the unemployed and start a small business; for others, the UN-RWA income-generation loans enable them to expand existing

The programme, begun in July of the UNRWA headquarters in Vienna under the Daniel Resident 1991 and run by a small staff out Development and Planning, is funding a wide range of businesses — from home-based knitting machines to a furniture factory. All share a common goal: to support and create sustainable, job-creating enterprises, primarily in import-substitution industries. Whatever the eventual outcome of peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians in the occupied territory. the development efforts of UN-RWA are sorely needed. So far while small, in made the Gaza effort something of a model for other UNRWA fields.

Five and half years ago, Gaza businessman Abu Rizik was working as a supervisor at a plastics factory inside Israel. Then, tired of travelling long distances and anxious to be his own boss, he struck out on his own, plowing his savings into his own plastics factory inside Gaza. "The business is good," he says, despite constant headaches with

mate of the tombs themsleves is

the occupation authorities over taxes and restrictions on his movement. The key to greater success, Mr. tion. Servicing markets in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. he was getting calls for products he could not produce with his limited machinery. When he heard about the UNRWA programme, he applied for, and was granted, a \$25,000 loan to buy a

plastics blowing machine. Now, in addition to the solid-moulded plastic components he was making before, he has the equipment to fabricate plastic bottles, video tape boxes and other machineblown items. The result has been a modest increase in his work force from four to seven workers and a more sustainable project.

Officials say the success of the plastics factory, which has seen revenues increase since receiving the loan, is indicative of the programme's early success. It combines all the elements necessary: it promotes employment, it has a built-in market in Gaza, the West Bank, Israel and even abroad for its products and the loan recipient is well-trained and responsible.

Gaza's UNRWA officers are careful to note that the programme is not a giveaway. It is a revolving loan fund with a strong commitment to proper training and repayment of the loans. Interest of between six and eleven per cent is charged and the fund is meant to eventually be self-sustaining. "It's a clean programme, and the recipients know that they have to pay," said Mr. Freij Tarazi, the income-generation officer. "We ask for guarantors to co-sign the loan and we make it clear that we will come to them if the borrower defaults on his or her repayments."

So far, Mr. Tarazi said, the repayment rate on the nearly 70 loans made, is 98 per cent. That's an impressive figure for any lender, let alone one that functions in the relative chaos of Gaza and its chronically depressed economy. One reason for the operation's fiscal success is the strict screening of applicants. The programme's small staff must screen all loan applications and oversee feasibility studies for prospective projects. Frivolous, inappropriate or ill-planned pro-

jects don't get funded. The need is great and the initial \$1.5 million funding for the programme has been exhausted. With permits for industrial activity difficult to secure from the Israeli military authorities and Gaza's sub-contracting industry increasingly cut off from Israeli markets because of chronic unrest associated with the intifada. the economic crisis is severe. UN-RWA official Alex Poliock explained that the agency looks for. applicants who will promote job

creation and import substitution that the income-generation probecause those activities will help ject promotes. Beginning with to create an economic infrastruc- basic training in an UNRWA ture for Gaza.

tion in which the mummies of the

through lack of capital and the technology. opportunity. "That's the reason we emphasise production over dence of the programme's effect are recent recipients of UNRWA the West Bank and Israel. loans, were now taking the next

trainer in the Gaza Strip.

made three loans of about \$5,500 work done inside Israel. equipment, producing only a few inside the Gaza Strip. pieces a month for local sale.

school, she was the first woman Mr. Pollock says that the ser- to receive funds from the new vice sector in Gaza acts mainly to loan programme. Now, she has a serve Israeli markets, while in- small business producing knit digenous industry shrivels sweaters and training others in

Elsewhere in Gaza, the evi-

services." In some cases, that opindividual lives can be equally production is home-based. One leteat, Abu Hamdi's furniture facrecent afternoon in a classroom flact, for example, had fallen into inside the UNRWA Vocational antific pair, largely as a result of the Training Centre in Rimer, Gaza, Gaza the hum of sophisticated knitting da. With a \$30,000 loan, he got machines and the sounds of the small store front factory up women's voices filled the air. and running again, reemploying This women, all clad in tradition- eleven workers to produce highal head-scarves, some of whom quality furniture for customers in In another loan-funded work-

step on the road to entrepreneu- shop, the programme demonstrates how deeply Gaza needs the The electronic knitting kind of small industry most ecomachines, micro-chip controlled nomies take for granted. The Swiss-made Passap 6000s, look small brake reconditioning busilike a cross between a harp and a ness of the Nawwaf brothers computer. The machines cost ab- started in November 1991 with a out \$4,700 each, and they require loan of \$25,000 from UNRWA. extensive training to operate. The The two brothers learned their dozen or so women in the UN- craft over a period of years spent RWA classroom are learning how working in Israel, but they grew to maintain the machines, each of tired of running the gauntlet of which can produce six complete checkpoints and enduring the dresses or sweaters a day. Their suspicions faced by Gazans inside teacher is a fellow loan recipient. Israel. They took their skill, their Umm Yusef, whose training be- life savings and the UNRWA gan in a centre in Beit Sahour in funds and created an industry the West Bank, and later took on that barely existed in Gaza, finda role as a company-approved ing a ready market for brake reconditioning among Gazans So far the programme has who previous had to have the

each to women who have been "This is better," said one of the through the training and are eligi- brothers. "I have my own shop ble to set up their own home now and my own business." If the knitting business. Most of the income-generator programme women in the classroom, Mr. continues on its successful path, Freij Tarazi explained, have been that is a sentiment that will be working with less advanced heard with increasing trequency

With the advent of the income- The writer, editor of the Sacgeneration loans, they can pro- ramento News and Review in duce enough clothing to augment California, wrote this article the family income, while still per- based on a trip he made to the mitting them to meet their re- Middle East in 1992. The article sponsibility for raising their chil- was distributed by the United dren and caring for the home. Nations Relief and Works Agen-Umm Yusef is the kind of cv (UNRWA) Public Information successful small business owner Office in Vienna.



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hoss says governments Rio Earth Summit pledge

MAIROBURY — The new head Of the United Nations' environmental agency UNEP commained blandy Morday that its radget had been cut despite pledges of more support at last year's Rio de Juneiro Earth Sum-

Elizabeth Dowdesvell of Januals told the United Nations Environment Programme's (UN-EP's) andual sewerning council that the lack of each undermined the credibility of the 29-year-old

in her first major address since talking over the U.M. watchdog har months ago, Ms. Dowdeswell entitieed both the world dovernments which fund UNEP and the agency itself and pledged to "vause constructive damage to

Coca-Cola

Tiumphant

come back

TEHRAN (AFP) — Coci-Cola

lies made a triumphant come

back in Item, 14 years after it was

banned after the Islamic revolu-

tion as a symbol of undesirable

Highlighting its success, Ira-

rien newspapers have since Sun-

they carried half-page advertise-

monts to drink Coca-Cola, even

Salars and it had to print the

new referement to prevent the pap-

er from closure because of a cut

in government subsidies to the

press, undertaken as part of its

thes to print an ad for one tenson

or the other, what other choices

do we have in light of the reform

President Ali Akbar Rafsan-

ing said last week that "paying

patholical to the press is not in the

interest of society, and they (the

press) have to be self-sufficient."

trevolution which toppled the

Shah, Coca-Cola found its way

back onto the Iranian market last

.48 frucks drive through Tehran

· wer through an ultra-medern

with the red and white logo offer-

ing the "reel thing," Coon-Cole is

Dusing a serious challenge to the

cool company Zem-Zam, which

reduces by own version of the

Salam is among newspapers

tipse to the radical camp apposed

in the import of Western goods.

_r. - it criticised the pro-

Meration of billboards in Tehran

~~₩/- meact remain indifferent

when American and Western

copitalism are creoping in through

the economic front," the news-

Theer said.

advirilsing products from the

dank in uniabelled bottles.

Acter to enteres since the 1979

policies?" the paper asked.

"What can we do? If we decide

Meilies dese to the radical anti-

makes

in Iran

Mestern culture.

Western camp.

e សមាធិកាខែ ១១ខែពាន់៖

the status quo." "The question being asked by many is this: What happened to the agenda agreed at Rio (de Janeiro), which called for UN-EP's role to be enhanced, for its resources to be expanded — and yet its budget has been shrunk." said Ms. Dowdeswell.

"Governments are ready to put only a quarter of the \$1.3 billion (they pledged) into the environment fund. Is it any wonder that our critics view with scepticism the real commitment," she told the meeting at its Nairobi headquarters.

"Does it mean that Rio was nothing more than a show for the press, does it mean that the word of 120 heads of government means nothing," she asked.

NICOSIA (R) — Eighteen com-

mercial and offshore banks have

sprung up in Turkish-held north

Cyprus in the last six months,

lured by the prospect of a united

Cyprus joining the European

Community (EC) and hopes of

new banks in Turkey now," said

Demirhan Sayiner, governor of

the central bank of the self-

proclaimed Turkish Republic of

the EC and these banks hope to

have a place in the Community

then," he told Reuters in an

Cyprus has already applied to

join the EC over protests by the

Turkish-Cypriot north, recog-

Cyprus has been split since

1974 when Turkey invaded the

north to block an attempt by

Greek-Cypriot coup leaders to

unite the island with Greece, then

Many Turkish Cypriots resent

the way the Greek Cypriots went

ahead with the application with-

out their consent, but still look

forward to the day when a future

federation reuniting the island's

two communities might enter the

The central bank says six new

Turkish-owned commercial

banks have started up in the last

six months, pushing the total to

20, serving a population of no

DURBAN (R) — South Africa

lost up to 500 rand (\$160 million)

in tourism earnings last year as a

direct result of political violence.

tourism chief Piet van Hoven has

the Tourism Board (Satour) told

a news conference the number of

foreign tourists visiting South

Africa last year drew by only 7.4

per cent compared to the board's

"We have not had a violence-

expectation of 20 per cent.

Mr. Van Hoven, chairman of

more than 150,000 to 170,000.

"Eventually Cyprus will join

North Cyprus (TRNC).

nised only by Ankara.

led by a military junta.

"It is very difficult to set up

opening branches in Turkey.

"these questions need answers." She gave no figures for a budget cut worked out by a coun-·solemn undertakings.*

Ms. Dowdeswell said she found the agency directionless when she took over from Egypt's Mustafa Tolba earlier this year and pledged to give it a world role.

"The policies we pursue will be beyond rhetoric. We will achieve tangible improvements in the health of the world's overburdened environment and the quality of life of all peoples. When I arrived at this organisation some four months ago, one of the first things I did was to look for a concise statement of the organisation's mission — there isn't

Two more commercial banks

are awaiting government approv-

al to enter the excessively

In the same period, 12 offshore

banking units (OBUs) have

opened. Most are Turkish-owned

but two are German and one is

Some exist only on paper.

Others operate from tiny two-

man offices and are able to tap

low-cost deposits from mainland

Turkey and lend money back to

raise the cost of deposits in Tur-

key. But attracting money to

offshore units, both the deposi-

tors and the banks benefit," said

the general manager of a newly-

established OBU in north Cyp-

rus. He asked not to be named.

Mr. Sayiner said the TRNC

imposes relatively low capital re-

quirements of 25 billion lira (\$2.5

million) for commercial banks

and five billion (\$500,000) for

companies and individuals from

new banking licences, requires

foreign bank branches to have a

capital of 150 billion lira (\$15

million), beyond the reach of

competing for a relatively small

deposit base estimated at 3.5

changed," said Peter Turgud,

free year in the past five years.

and before that (foreign tourists)

had the moral problem of visiting

South Africa because of apar-

theid," Mr. Van Hoven added.

tourism, which contributes about

60 per cent of the country's earn-

tion did not have access to the

industry before, which implies a

significant growth for the industry

in future," Mr. Van Hoven said

"A large section of the popula-

Satour aims to boost domestic

"The size of the pie has not

Local commercial banks are

most banks in neath Cyprus.

trillion lira (\$350 million).

Turkey, which has restricted

OBUs, adding to its attraction for er.

"High reserve requirements

interest in north Cyprus

стоwded market.

Pakistani.

Turkey.

Turkish banks.

She said UNEP needed to redefine its priorities — reorganise cil meeting last week but said it its secretariat and better manage represented a "retreat from its affairs. She said hiring and promotion policies at the U.N. often "bordered on the perverse," which kept away profes-

sionals of high standings. Ms. Dowdeswell gave no details but many UNEP staff complain privately that the agency is a sinecure for a large number of international staff who receive diplomatic status when transferred to Nairobi in return for little real work.

She pledged a credible and service-oriented UNEP in her term which would win the confi dence of governments and justify

general manager of Kibris Ticaret

Bankasi Ltd., one of the biggest

and oldest banks in north Cyprus.

and OBUs started when Yahva

Demirel, a controversial figure in

Turkey who is the nephew of

Turkish President Suleyman De-

Kibris Yatirim Bankasi Ltd.

which now has three branches in

The Turkish lira is legal tender

in north Cyprus, which is there-

fore sensitive to Turkey's 58 per

cent annual inflation rate, the

lira's sinking dollar parity and

The Turkish Cypriot govern-

ment is encouraging new banks

and OBUs, in the hope of creat-

ing an international financial cen-

tre to rival the offshore market in

"The banks also create em-

But some bankers, who asked

not to be named, warned that the

new commercial banks might lose

their capital if they built a client

base on lending to shaky or ineffi-

They said that four or five

banks were already seaddled with

a total of 120 billion lira (\$12)

million) in non-performing loans

Mr. Sayiner said the new banks

to the sluggish tourism industry.

would be as strictly supervised as

in reference to the end of apar-

Chief director for tourism

promotion, Ernie Heath, said

Satour recently launched an

aggressive international market-

ing programme to attract around

960,000 foreign tourists by 1995

and some 1.7 billion by the end of

"However, it is essential that

the century.

theid restrictions on blacks.

in any other country.

cient enterprises.

ployment and bring in much-

needed capital." said Mr. Savin-

the Greek-Cypriot south.

high interest rates.

north Cyprus, and an OBU.

He set up a commercial bank,

mirel, arrived in November.

Bankers say the influx of banks

of a stronger yen. Liabilities came to 7,446 billion yen (\$66 billion), down 4.2 per Turkish bankers take new cent from 1991 record of 7.774 billion yen and the first decline since 1989.

Japan's

failures

corporate

hit 6-year

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese

corporate failures jumped to a

six-year high in the year to March

while the amount of liabilities

involved reached their second

highest level on record, a credit

Teikoku Data Bank Ltd, said

the number of bankruptcies grew

22.7 per cent from a year earlier

to 14,441 cases, the highest level

since 1986 when 16,886 com-

panies collapsed under the weight

research agency has said.

The number of big corporate failures with liabilities of one billion yen or more jumped 22.8 per cent to a record 177 cases. Most were concentrated in the December quarter when the Japanese economic slowdown

was at its worst. "The increase in bankruptcies was due to the prolonged economic stagnation and the recent yen's rise, which particularly hit export industries including car and electronics makers," Mr. Teikoku said.

The agency, which also blamed sluggish personal consumption from keeping inventories high and depressing investment, said the high level of corporate failures was expected to continue in the current year.

Bankruptcies in the manufacturing sector, accounting for the biggest share of failures, soared 43 per cent, although the transport and information sectors posted the sharpest increase of 55 per cent. Construction industry failures were up 22 per cent but those in the real-estate sector were almost unchanged.

Major failures included housing products manufacturer Lec Inc., the first listed company to go bankrupt in Japan since 1986, with 25 billion ven in liabilities. Another listed company, textile manufacturer Daiichiboseki Co. Ltd., went under with liabilities on 89 billion ven.

Mr. Teikoku said most of the failures were related to Japanese real-estate market's collapse or slow inventory adjustment. Violence damaging S. African tourist trade

larger scale," Mr. Heath said.

Satour said it was particularly

pleased with the increase of tour-

ists from Africa which showed a

cumulative growth of 80 per cent

More than two million people

last year compared to 1991.

plunges to 934 against dollar

on Thursday.

safety of the international tourist can be ensured, will visitors be attracted to South Africa on a

on a steep downward slide since

last autumn Authorities have decided to

Clinton discloses financial heldings

SAN DIEGO, California (R)— President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary have accumulated between \$534,000 and \$1.7 mil--lion in savings, stocks and bonds. according to a financial disclosure statement released by the White House late Monday.

The statement covers 1992 and thus does not reflect any changes in Mr. Clinton's financial situation since he assumed the presidency on Jan. 20 this year.

Most of the Clintons' money appears to be invested in money market funds, a low-yielding investment that could either reflect a cautious approach to the financial markets or a desire not to own large blocks of stock in individual companies so as to avoid conflicts of interest.

The couple owns some shares, however, including a significant block of shares of department store chain Wal-Mart Stores Inc. valued at between \$100,000 and \$250,000.

Wal-Mart has its headquarters in Mr. Clinton's home state of Arkansas, and its late chairman, Sam Walton, was a friend of the

and Spencer store chain

announced a 25 per cent increase

in annual results to a record high

and regained its position as the

most-profitable British retail

group from the J. Sainsbury food

The group reported pre-tax

profits for the year to March of

£736.5 million (\$1.12 billion)

from £588.9 million one year

earlier. The result, which was

more than analysts had expected,

was achieved on a two per cent

increase in sales to a record figure

outlet Tuesday.

Marks and Spencer

makes record profits

LONDON (AFP) — The Marks of £5.95 billion. The gross margin

All other individual steck holdings of the first family were valued at far less — in the range of \$1,000 to \$15,000, including shares in NYNEX Corp. Bell Atlantic Corp and Bellsouth

Corp.

Mr. Clinton received \$33,272 in salary as governor of Arkansas last year, according to the disclosure form. The governor's salary. which has since been raised, is fixed in the state constitution and was at the time the lowest gubernatorial salary in the nation.

Mrs. Clinton's stake in her Little Rock Law firm, the Rose law firm, was valued at between \$100,000 and \$250,000. She quit the firm when the Clintons moved to Washington to start his presidency.

The form also disclosed that Mr. Clinton last year paid off two campaign loans taken to help finance his 1990 gubernatorial reelection campaign.

He had borrowed between \$100,000 and \$200,000 for that campaign.

rose to 12.5 per cent of sales from

11.9 per cent the previous year.

The group was accelerating its

expansion in Britain and abroad

particularly in Europe and in the

Far East. Lat year the company

had invested £251 million in ex-

pansion and in the modernisation

of stores. Operating profits on

distribution activities had risen by

7.8 per cent to £786.9 million

owing to an increase in margins

resulting from tight controls on

costs and an increase of 35 per

Honda earnings plunge 32%

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Honda Motor Co. Ltd. said Tuesday that its consolidated pre-tax earnings fell by 32.3 per cent from the figure a year earlier to 88.6 billion yen (\$763 million) in the year to

The company, which ranks as Japan's third biggest carmaker worldwide, said that group sales fell by 5.9 per cent to some 4,132 billion yen in the same period, mainly depressed by sluggish sales in North America and Japan. This was offset by stronger sales in other Asian countries and South America.

For the coming year, Honda forecast a net profit of 23 billion yen, down from 38.3 billion yen in the latest year, on reduced ै revenue of around 4,000 billion yen. The company made no projection for pre-tax earnings.

Honda said that the lower revenue forecast mainly reflected the impact of the stronger yen. "Although the world's major automobile markets seemingly will continue to dwindle, Honda is planning to expand it sales mainly through the introduction of new models," the company said in a statement.

Analysts said Honda's failure to introduce new models since October were partly responsible for the company's weak domestic

sales. Peter Broadman, an analyst at the Tokyo branch of UBS Securities Ltd. reckons the company suffers from a poor product mix compared with its competitors. Moreover, Honda has failed to make an aggressive entry into the lucrative recreation vehicle market, he said.

In the year just ended, car reminue fel! 9.1 per cent to 3,280 billion ven while sales volume dropped 8.6 per cent at 1.79

Rouble

MOSCOW (AFP) -- The rouble fell sharply against the dollar in trading here Tuesday, plunging to 934 against the dollar compared to 886 at the last trading session

Offers were posted at \$58.5 million and demand at \$64.7 million with overall trading volume on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange listed at \$47.3 million.

The Russian money has been

begin holding trading session four days a week instead of the current two, a move aimed not at stemming the rouble's fall but at blunting the sharp drops at each trading session.

cent in profits made abroad. million units.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY MAY 19, 1993 By Thomas S. Fierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Show that you are one who is considerate of others and that you are willing to go out of your way to provide charm in your surroundings. Arguing puts you behind the eightball. Avoid new purchases and gossips.

ARIES: March 21 to April 19) Come to a new and a better agreement with those you regard as usual and dependable allies and show them your true understand-

ing of issues you have. TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can add much charm and whatever others like in the duties you perform today so extend this as far as possible, tonight seek data in confidence.

GEMINE: (May 21 to June 21) A fine day to make arrangements with congenial companions for the various social and recreational events you anticipate, then quietly do necessary planning of details. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A touch of beauty here and of more operative skill there at home will make your residence

more harmonious, tonight you canquietly enjoy pleasures. LEO: (July 22 August 21) Be less regal and more aware of the needs and desires of usual comrades which will please them very much

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You would be wise to increase

HAROMA

63 Heavy shoe

66 Philippine tree

68 Diamond and

69 Not so much

Simon

DOWN

2 Motto or

Magnani 3 Musicel

piece

5 Homey

6 Footwear

7 Everything

4 Compass pt.

1 Clark Kent's girl

40 Kind of

41 Alliance letters

42 Explosive

45 Open shoe

46 Fins

82 — Scott

67 Circle

70 Facile 71 "- Hed"

and tonight enjoy your home com-

the value of your property and possessions now in any way that brings more attractiveness to your

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is the day for you to exude charm and magnetism to all you meet and to get their approval for your pet projects, then do neces-

sary practical duties. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You like to know all phases of whatever intrigues your conosity or sense of mystery and today finds you able to ferret out answers you

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Understanding and attractive friends can bring you much that is pleasant so see as many as possible and tonight seek ways to show your appreciation. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Take some time out during the day to build up your fense where anything of a civic or a credit nature are concerned for you

can do so easily. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be on the lookout for some give and take with new associates who are equipped with knowledge for which you are seeking, tonight use it in a worldly manner.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have an excellent day to sit down and work out with your mate a new set of circumstances which can bring you both greater well being.

THE SETTER HALF. By Harris

There's a new trainee at the beauty shop. I told her I wanted my hair frosted."

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Amold and Bob Lee Linear umble thesa four Jumbles, ensieller to each square, to form leur erdinary words. VATLE Physical area design to September 1991 WHY THE HEN SAT ON AN AX. OFFIE Now extange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon. (Answers tomorrow) dunyitte: FLOUT CAMEO JUMPER DIVERT For you do this -- PUT THEM OVER

Peanuts

ings from tourism.



soon as possible. Only when the record, Satour said.

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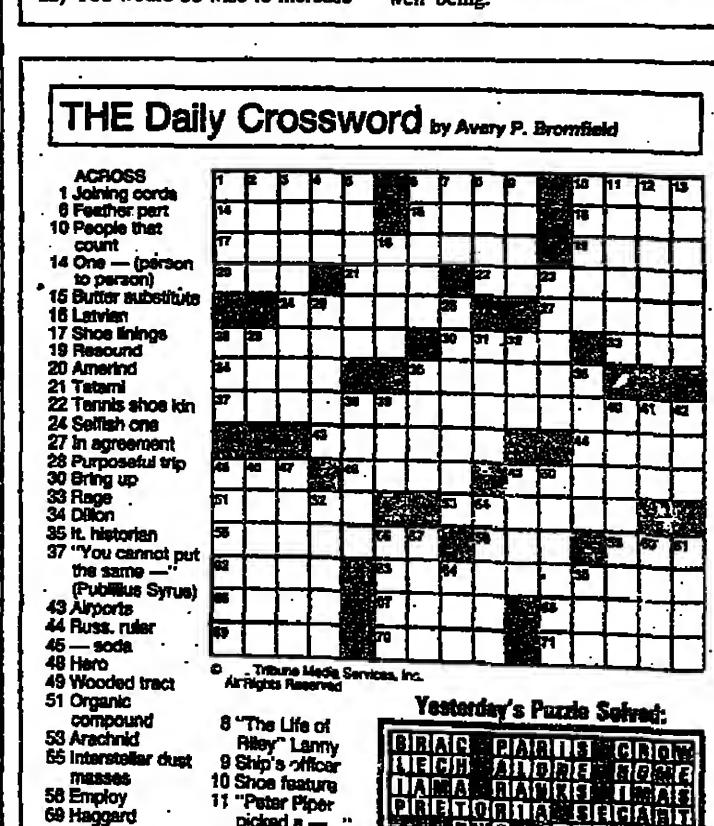
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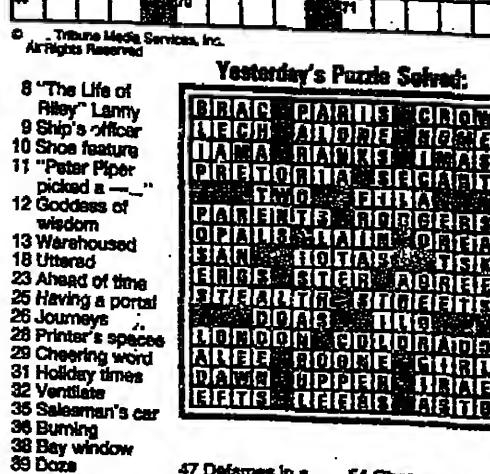
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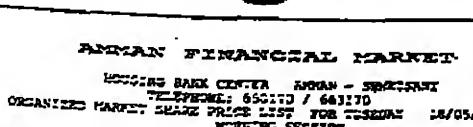
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Other Currencies

Bahraini Dinar

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Government rejects plan to reveal debt names

Kuwait urges belt-tightening to cut deficit

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait said its citizens should learn to live on less to help reduce a budget deficit swollen by costs of repair and reconstruction after the 1991

Gulf war. Asked if Kuwaitis should tighten their belts. Information Minister Saud Nasser Al Saud Al

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Sabah replied: I think the situation now is not as

it was before Aug. 2, 1990." "Even if you go back to Aug. 2, 1990, we had a deficit in our budget because of the oil prices and because of the extensive expenditure by the government on many social services," Sheikh Monday evening.

Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2, 1990, and claimed the small Gulf state as its 19th province. A U.S.-led multinational force drove out Iragi troops in Febru-

affluent living standards and a generous welfare state sold a substantial part of its overseas assets to help pay for Operation Desert Storm, the repair of massive damage to its oil sector and general reconstruction.

Kuwait's overseas assets, valued pre-war at up to \$100 billion, are now put by some market estimates at between \$15 billion and \$35 billion.

The government has proposed a 10 per cent cut in expenditure for the 1993/94 fiscal year starting July 1 that would lower the deficit to 1.02 billion dinars (\$3.38 billion) from two billion dinars (\$6.6 billion) in 1992/93. The government has not published details of the cuts.

The International Monetary Fund has called on Kuwait to reduce the deficit by cutting civil service wages and salaries which make up a quarter of state spending and imposing fees for many

state services currently free or charged at nominal cheap rates. Finance Minister Nasser Abdulla Al Rodhan has said he is "The answer is absolutely yes. studying the proposals but has ruled out wage cuts. Ninety per cent of Kuwaitis in employment

work for the government, where

junior grades can earn around

600 dinars (\$1.900) per month. Opposition members of parliament have called for cuts in prestige building projects and de-Sand told Reuters in an interview fence spending but urged social spending and wages be maintained for the 1.3 million popula-

In 1991/92 the deficit ballooned to 5.33 billion dinars (\$17.5 billion) because of reconstruction, war expenses, civil service pay The oil-exporting country with increases and state-funded writeoffs of many Kuwaitis' consumer

> Sheikh Saud said "the majority of Kuwait's foreign investments were used to help fund Desert Storm and help countries whose economies were indirectly hurt by sanctions against Iraq.

"I think we should learn to accept it and learn to tighten the belt so that within three or four years there will be a balance, so we can get rid of the deficit which exists," Sheikh Saud said.

"But then again I think that is something which is less important than other issues which I have touched upon, like security, because once you have security. things in the country will naturally improve," he pointed out.

"Compared to the deficits that many countries have in their budgets, Knwait's is just a fraction of other countries' prob-

Sheikh Saud said security was the number one priority for Kuwait as Iraqi President Saddam Hussein remained in power. Meanwhile, the Kuwait government has rejected a draft law

that would enable parliament to lift a veil of secrecy over borrowers' identities as part of efforts to solve a \$20 billion bad debt prob-'The proposals as presented are unconstitutional," minister of state for cabinet affairs Abdul

andum to the oppositiondominated assembly's finance and economic committee. "Banking secrecy and freedom are two parallel issues in demo-

the state of Kuwait," the memorandum, published by several newspapers, said.

"It (the proposal) touches the personal freedom to citizens guaranteed by the constitution. The proposal is contaminated by constitutional and legal violations and the government objects to

The assembly, tackling a problem that has weakened the banking system since 1982, says that until it knows the identity of the 9,546 individual and corporate assess their financial status and lay down repayment terms.

Aziz Al Dakhil said in a memoricapped by \$20 billion in unpaid debts stemming partly from the 1982 crash of an informal bourse and partly from other longstandcratic countries, amongst which is in 1990-91.

helped keep the economy stagnant despite a post-Gulf war revival in oil earnings.

The debtors are believed to the draft law include major business concerns. Under the draft law, parliament would have a conditional right to compel the central bank to reveal privately to assembly members its data about the de-

btors, including their numes.

The conditions were that the debts involved in the request for information be the subject of borrowers it will be unable to parliamentary debate and involve public funds and that the request be put forward by a standing The banking system is hand-committee of the assembly and approved by a plenary session of parliament.

Commenting on previous demands for disclosure of names, ing commercial losses aggravated banking authorities have said that by Iraq's seven-month occupation—any debtor who failed to follow—trust in the country of inferiors and

ramme would automatically have his identity revealed because he would be taken to court The assembly has certain debate

A separate state les dissipawith resolvings; sacks sougher terms for hig borrowers who indiwidually one over 500,000 deads. (\$1.65 million) and a partial deet write-off for small bottowars our-

The finance and economic communed says it is intestabled the draft law on the diment per fore submitting it for a second time to the assembly for depute. The English-Linguistic Again

Times quoted Sharah Dakhil as adding "The proposal arraches the secreey that is plantament to cheats of banks, whother they be persons of doublement if my destroy local and intercational any tuture debt settlement proget financial system.

Saudi banks turn in another strong quarter

MANAMA (R) — Saudi Arabia's banks have followed up a strong performance in 1992 with another profits increase in the first quarter of this year.

All 11 of the 12 banks reporting turned a profit, 10 of them with an increase. And for all but a handful the rise in net earnings was in double digits, ranging as

high as 81 per cent. "There's plenty of liquidity, plenty of loans out there. People are pouring money in," one

Saudi-based banker commented. "One can certainly say the kingdom has six good months left (of economic boom) and if you're pushed a couple more years." The Saudi economy roased out of the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, led by the construction sector — partiv government expenditure but also private spending by a populace confident their country was safe.

Oil industry analysis say stateowned oil company Saudi Aramco has moderately scaled down ambitious plans to expand the country's crude oil production cupacity.

JORDAN

MARKET PLACE

But aside from that there still is little to suggest a limit to construction. Expansions are planned or underway at numerous petrochemical plants and new

real estate market is still rising. Indecomposition or them in her-Banks have also benefited from the lotter want to little it emding in securities, either on

returns of only around three per revenue. cent of their deposits have inas much as 200 per cent.

reasonably well for the Sandi detact economy, the biggest uncertainty return to the oil market

plants are being built, while the and like melanacy and are as a R. Iraq erac end cover outnot their own account or on behalf of the production with the first to his back then on the or beginning a Local investors unhappy with this cuber was lattered to the

Hill even if persons a first of the creasingly turned to securities, by no mean, or the Saint, The amount the banks hold in economy work that seems the bonds and securities has usen by powernment could accord as benton and appropriately of many of With oil prices holding up necessary is to finance its madger

And for now the outlook for on the horizon is when Iraq will. Saudi Arabia - banks continues in Ande



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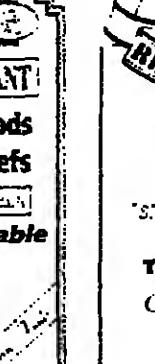
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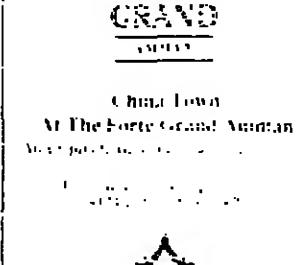




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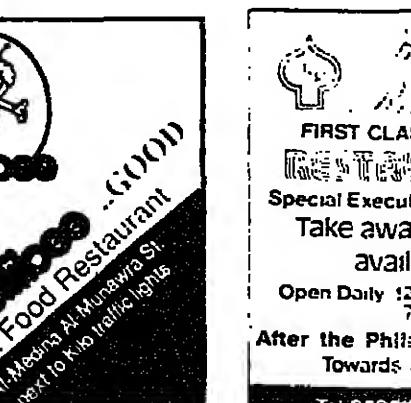
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LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs 1.2745/50 1.6242/52 1.8225/35 1.4755/65 33.37/39 5.4700/50 1482/1485 111.68/73 7.3650/750 Canadian dollar Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns



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Bosnian Serbs bury their dead

FAKOVICI, Bosnia. Herzegovina (Agencies) — Bishop Vasilije, giving the Orthodox blessing to the remains of 17 Serb villagers killed by Muslim Slavs, was emphatic: "Behold the fruit of hatred and false brotherhood."

It was an open call for the physical separation of Bosnia's war-embroiled communities, at a time when the Bosnian Serb leadership is pressing for a separate

The bodies of the old men and some women were unearthed last Sunday at Ratkovici, a hamlet perched in the mountains 20 kilometres from the nearest paved road on the way to the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica. Locals said the villagers were

killed in a Muslim raid last June. Their bones were brought here for burial alongside the 100 civilians partisans, killed by pro-German militia, lying in the memorial to the dead of World War II.

Fakovici too has been caught up in the guerrilla war raging in eastern Bosnia for the past year. All Serb dwellings were set on fire, when Muslim groups mounted an expedition against the village last September. Only the tiny Orthodox Church and the priest's house were left stand-

"The killings will go on for another 100 years if we do not find an intelligent solution enabling us to separate Serbs, Croats

and Muslims," warned General Milan Gvero. He was among a large turnout of Bosnian Serb military at the burial of the Rat-

kovici victims.

Mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg ventured into Bosnia's war zone Tuesday in a new effort to bring peace to the former Yugoslav republic. They were heading for the Bos-

nian Croat town of Medjugorie for talks with Croatian President Franjo Tudíman and Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbego-

Medjugorje, a place of pilgrimage for Roman Catholics, is near the southwestern Bosnian city of Mostar, where Muslim and Croat forces have battled for the past

eight days. A U.N. spokesman in Geneva said the meeting might take place in Mostar if the warring factions observed a truce.

The U.N. spokesman told Reuters: "The question this morning was whether the conditions would permit it — if the ceasefire holds. The meeting will be held only if there are no major risks or diffi-

Mostar was the scene of a massive explosion Monday night, which Croatian radio said was caused when a Muslim ammunition dump blew up.

Croats and Muslims, once allies against the Serbs, have turned against each other in an attempt to grab territory.

U.N. officials described the

security situation in the town as "very dangerous" with access controlled by Croat forces.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, accompanied by his Deputy Vitaly Churkin, arrived in the Croatian port of Split at the start of a mission to promote a new peace effort by Mos-

Spanish and Danish foreign ministers were also in Split Tuesday, although it was not clear whether they would meet the

Mr. Kozyrev has expressed his backing for a peace plan for Bosnia worked out by Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, Mr. Stoltenberg's predecessor.

Mr. Kozyrev, who was expected in Belgrade later Tuesday. said the international community would not let "a few militants and warlords" in Bosnia get in the way of peace.

Bosnian Serbs, in a referendum whose result is seen as a foregone conclusion, have overwhelmingly rejected the Vance-Owen peace

Russian efforts on Bosnia received a setback Monday when the United States made clear it would not attend a meeting of-U.N. Security Council foreign ministers planned by Russia to discuss the future of peacekeeping operation in Bosnia.

Diplomats said the snub reflected disunity among Security Council members over what to do about Bosnia and they forecast

Russia would cancel the session. France appealed to the United States and Russia to send troops to Bosnia to help protect Muslims in U.N.-declared "safe areas."

"We wish that the big powers come to relieve our efforts. think especially of Russians and Americans," Foreign Minister Alain Juppe told the newspaper Le Figaro.

"It is the responsibility of all those who want to assume responsibilities in European Secur-

France has proposed increasing the 9,000 U.N. peacekeeping forces in Bosnia to 40,000 to protect Sarajevo and six other largely Muslim enclaves designated safe areas

In Belgrade, the U.N. refugee agency said aid convoys carrying desperately needed food were on their way to Muslim-held areas in Bosnia Tuesday after Serb forces had held them up for several

The convoys were bound for Srebrenica, Žepa, Gorazde and the capital Sarajevo - all declared "safe areas" by the U.N. this month — following an accord between the Bosnian Serb army and U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) officials.

UNHCR spokeswoman Lyndall Sachs said: "People in these areas are verv vulnerable because they have small stocks of food. Without these convoys there would be a quick slide into suffer-

Sri Lanka

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The Piano screens to emotional ovation at Cannes Film Festival has already won one Golden CANNES, France (AP) — More put in by the energetic Anna Paquin as Ada's daughter Flora, than 2,500 people at the Cannes

Film Festival gave an emotional standing ovation Monday to New Zealand director Jane Campion's The Piano, widely favoured to win this year's coveted golden palm award. Guests who packed the Grand

Theatre Lumiere gave director

New Zealand director Jane Campion (second from

right) accompanied by actors Harvey Keitel (left),

Holly Hunter (centre) and Sam Neill (right), arrives

Campion and stars Holly Hunter and Harvey Keitel a seven-minute ovation with cries of "bravo" at the film's official premiere. The Piano about a woman who leaves Scotland with her nineyear-old daughter and her piano for New Zealand in the late 19th century, is among the 23 films in

competition for the Golden Palm at the annual cinema festival, and so far easily the critics' and audiences' favourite. Ada, played by Hunter, is a mute woman who arrives in the remote New Zealand bush for an

arranged marriage with Stewart (Sam Neill). But the union is loveless, and Ada finds solace in playing her piano which has found its way to the cabin of the mysterious, hermit-like George (Keitel). George discovers comfort,

then consuming desire, through Ada's visits but then shamefully catches himself bartering piano access for Ada's body. An astonishing performance is

ROME (R) — Italian police

Tuesday captured the mafia's

highest-ranking fugitive. Be-

nedetto Nitto Santapaola, the

head of its armed wing who took

over the organisation after the

Police arrested Mr. Santapaola

without firing a shot in a dawn

raid on a unguarded farmhouse in

eastern Sicily where the mafioso

was sleeping with his wife. There

was a pistol in the drawer of his

bedside table, but did not try to

He was carrying a false docu-

ment, but made no attempt to

hide his identity. National Police

Commissioner Vincenzo Parisi

said that in keeping with the

tradition of mafia bosses, Mr.

Santapaola congratulated the

Mr. Santapaola, underworld

boss of the eastern Sicilian city of

Catania, was left in charge of cosa

nostra after the arrest Salvatore

"Toto" Rima, the mafia god-

father from Corleone caught on

January 15 after 23 years on the

in his hometown Catania and

then graduated to drugs. Police

considered Mr. Santapaola a key

player in the heroin and cocaine

trade, but he was best known as

the leader of the cosa nostra's

fiercest armed units.

He started out in racketeering

men who captured him.

arrest of his boss last January.

who communicates with her mother through a sign language only the two can understand.

"The acting was sensational and the story fabulous," said Nathalie Delin, a public relations worker who attended the blacktie gala, "For two hours, without dialogue, Holly Hunter transmitted so much through her looks and gestures."

You can just feel the film was made by a woman," Miss Delin said. "There are emotions only a woman can understand. George never touched the piano, and that's how she realised he was a sensitive man.

Stephane Mirkine, whose father Yves and grandfather Leo were the official photo archivists of the Cannes Festival for 30 years, agreed that the touch of a woman director was unmistak-

"I lived most of my life with only my mother, and I always felt could understand what she was feeling," Miss Mirkine said. "You can communicate through touching, as Ada touched the piano keys."

Campion is one of four women directors taking part in the festival's main competition, a record in the festival's 46-year history. She

Italy arrests top Sicilian mafia fugitive

Benedetto Santapaola

the police.

Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio

Ciampi, who last week said Italy

had to defeat the mafia if it

wanted to regain international

credibility, immediately thanked

The latest arrest came as Italy

prepared to commemorate the

first anniversary of the murder of

mafia-busting Judge Gjovanni

Falcone, whose death on May 23,

1992 marked a major turning

point in the Italian state's battle

three bodyguards died when a

huge bomb blew up a motorway

as they were driving into Paler-

Judge Falcone, his wife and

Palm here, for her short film Peel in 1982. Her other feature films were Sweetie (1989) and An Angel At My Table (1990).

at the Festival Palace in Cannes for the presentation

of her competition movie during the Cannes Film

Festival (AFP photo)

The Piano is a study of romantic impulse and how it is both beroic and destructive. Campion blends love, rage, hope, despair and vengeance in a mystic tale set in muddy yet beautiful bush land.

Also showing Monday was Magnificat by Pupi Avati, set in 10th-century Italy chronicling several people whose lives don' intersect but converge on monastery during Easter week. The screenings followed a weekend where the first Haitian

and horror films were shown in

competition. Raoul Peck's L'Homme Sur Les Quais (The Man On The Quays) was a ground-level look at the Tonton Macoute reign of terror in Haiti under Papa Doc Duvalier, as seen through the eyes of a young girl.

Abel Ferrara's Body Snatchers was the second remake of invasion Of The Body Snatchers after Don Siegel's original in 1956 and Philip Kaufman's once-over in 1978. While tedious at times, the special effects are noteworthy and Ferrara may have discovered a new Uma Thurman in teenager Gabrielle Anwar.

"It's almost as though we did it

on purpose. We arrested him on

the eve of the anniversary of that

massacre," said Antonio Man-

ganelli, who led the police raid on

Also Tuesday, police arrested a

judge and several other people

in early morning raids against

organised crime in the Naples

region, Italian GR1 state radio

Police detained Judge Alfonso

Lamberti, currently suspended

from his duties, during investiga-

tions based on testimony from

Mr. Galasso, a former member

of the Camorra — the Naples'

mafia — is cooperating with the

It is the first time a judge has

been arrested in the wave of

corruption arrests that have cut a

swathe through Italian political

Reports said a total of 13 arrest

warrants had been issued in the

latest raids for charges ranging

from mafia association to corrup-

Meanwhile, Carlo De Benedet-

ti, the latest top name embroiled

in Italy's graft scandal, Tuesday

angrily accused politicians of run-

ning an extortion racket and

holding his Olivetti computer

firm to ransom for over a decade.

life over the past 15 months.

turneoat Pasquale Galasso.

Mr. Santapaola's hideout.

reported.

iglesias eyes Chinese pop market

SHANGHAI (AFP) - Spanish pop star Julio Iglesiae nushed up the corners of his eveluls to make the point. "Why I'm an interested in China and Asia That's hecause of my Kids," he fold a packed press conference here on the eve of his performance at the closing ceremony of the maugural East Asian Games. They are half Asian and half European. Sa my kids have eves like this," the 49-year-old jet-set entertainet & said. "But I'm not matried any more." The potential racial slur was taken lightly by some 150 mostly Chinese reporters and photographers who asked for autographs and a song from the one-time football pro who is reportedly performing here for nothing. "For an artist like me after so many years, it's not the question about whether they pay or they don't pay," he said. "I want to see people." It was lelesias first visit to this populous port city, a fast-developing model of China's "socialist market economy." He has been to Peking a > number of times since 1988 when he became the first foreign affist to perform live on China Central Television. The Guiness Book of World Records lists him as the singer who has sold the most albums worldwide - more than 160 million copies. China could be one of the few markets left to be tapped by Iglesias who. according to his publicist, has played 3,000 concerts and vixis relevision shows in 75 countries since 1968.

Hollywood trio open new restaurant

LONDON (AP) - Sylvester

Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger

and Bruce Willis opened their new Planet Hollywood restaurant in a bucketing downpour that drenched thousands of lans jumming the surrounding streets. A brief but torrential rain waked the dedicated fans but did not darren the welcome they gave the muscular trio when they arrived for a star-studded launch party at their new showbiz restaurant in London's Piccadilly Circus. Stallone nearly caused a riot when he went on an impromptu walkabout and had to be rescued by a bevy of burly minders and police. He returned to his position of safety behind security barriers as the crowd chanted "Rocky, Rocky" -- the role that made him famous. Schwarzenegger arrived punching the air and shouting "welcome to Planet Hollywood". Willis turned up at the same time as an ambulance appeared to collect fans who had fainted. If the cheers had not drowned him out, the sirens would have. Willis, wearing a baseball cap and what appeared to be an undershirt appeared with his wife, actress Demi Moore. The stars invited more than 200 of their showbusiness pals for the opening night, Actor Mel Gibson, wearing a powder blue jacket and black shirt and trousers, shook hands with people behind the security barriers as he was walking in while the excitement approached pandemonium levels. He posed for photographs with a London policeman who seemed to be the envy of all the women in the street, several of whom fainted.

First lady has a new hair style

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Suddenly, the main issue is the mane issue. First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton has a new hairdo. She returned to Washington from a weekend trip to New York with her formerly shoulder-length hair cut to just below her ears. The new style is layered on the sides, slightly tousled and swept away from her face. The White House wasn't saying who wielded the shears. But the Washington Post said in Tuesday editions the first lady's new hairdo was the work of Frederic Fekkai, a New Yorkbased Frenchman who charges \$275 a cut and counts among his clients actresses Marla Maples, Sigourney Weaver, Ellen Barkin, Meryl Streep and TV journalist

Wild cabbages could clean up poisoned land

LONDON (AFP) - Wild cabbages may soon be used to hop up Britain's abandoned industrial sites, after a successful two-year investigation into their powers of absorbing toxic sludge. The Guardian newspaper reported. Scientists from Sheffield University, central England, and from government experimental laboratories have found the plants can be more effective at neutralising metallic poisons than current detoxifying techniques. The trials, funded by the European Community and a U.S. chemical firm, showed the cabbages could adapt to poisons in the soil by absorbing them harmlessly into shoots and cissues. Their appetite also appears to extend beyond metals to municipal rubbish and contaminated sewage sludge, the newspaper said.

Russian court postpones coup trial

MOSCOW (AP) — A court Tuesday indefinitely suspended the treason trial of the alleged masterminds of the August 1991 Soviet coup, agreeing with the defendants that Russia's chief prosecutor was biased.

Families of the 12 defendants smiled and burst into applause when presiding Judge Anatoly Ukolov read the decision. The defendants themselves, however, showed little reaction.

The three judges said they would formally ask the Supreme Soviet legislature to consider the "serious violations" by Prosecutor-General Valentin Stepankov and his deputy. Yevgeny Lisov, who together wrote a book about the coup, Kremlin Plot. Mr. Ukolov said the judges would ask the Supreme Soviet to consider how the independence of the prosecution team could be

guaranteed. Mr. Stepankov and Mr. Lisov are not participating directly in the trial and the nine prosecutors handling the trial have said they are acting indepen-

dently, But defence lawyers argued that the prosecutors' careers depend on their boss, Mr. Stepank-

"The very title of the book shows that the prosecutor-general has an opinion on the case and is not objective," said defence lawyer Alexei Gologanov. "It is a very crude infringement on the rights of the accused."

The trial is now indefinitely postponed until the Supreme Soviet considers what to do. The judges left open the possibility that the trial could resume. perhaps with new prosecutors. The three judges did not direct-

call for the ouster of Mr.

Stepankov and Mr. Lisov, but that would seem to be the clear implication of the decision.

> The trial began on April 14 in the military branch of Russia's Supreme Court but was suspended two days later because of the illness of defendant Alexander Tizyakov, a former leader of the Soviet military-industrial

> The defendants are charged with treason in the botched coup that briefly ousted Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and led to the breakup of the Soviet Union. If convicted, they could be sentenced to death.

> Among the other defendants are former Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov, Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov, Vice President Gennady Yanayev and KGB Chairman Vladimir Kryuchkov.

Specialists to probe Cuba's blindness

An estimated 11,000 riot police

were deployed in Seoul to guard the homes of the two former presidents, U.S. installations including the U.S. embassy, and government buildings.

Mr. Chun, helped by Mr. Roh and other generals, seized power in a coup in December 1979.

Monday in armoured troop car-

riers, but concentrated its forces

in upper-class districts previously

hit by car bombs. There was little

military presence in the dusty

shantytowns that ring this run-

down, overcrowded city of 7 mil-

lion, where rebel presence is

In Huaycan, a shacktown on a

barren mountainside 20

kilometres east of downtown

Lima, shopkeeper Ricardo Flores

said few bus drivers dared to enter

the area Monday.

them." he said.

their vehicles," he said.

fighting in the countryside.

night he opened his store a

woman and two men armed with

pistols appeared at his door to

demand a "war contribution."

He ended up giving them most of

his rice, oil and other food sta-

did not dare to disobey

His words clashed with the

view expressed by President

Alberto Fujimori, who told re-

porters touring Lima with him

feared the Shining Path.

Monday that Peruvians no longer

epidemic

mysterious affliction that has caused total or partial blindness in thousands of Cubans appears to be spreading. Some blame food shortages or pesticides, and international specialists are inves-

Cases have been documented across the island, which is reeling from a severe food shortage that the government blames on the U.S. trade embargo, the withdrawal of Soviet Bloc support and bad weather.

recently sent to examine the affliction.

Castro visited a hospital in eastern Cuba to check on the outbreak. The 1,000-bed facility in Santiago had been turned over completely for the treatment of the affliction.

One of the patients there was Magda Muniz Estrada, 20, who said the symptoms began with a pain in one eye that progressively

quito that would not let me see things well or make out the clothing of people, or colours," she told the Spanish newspaper El Pais. "I felt tired, with pain in my legs and cramps."

ral Santiago, not prone to the distribution problems of Havana, food is hard to get.

The U.N. World Health Organisation (WHO) and affiliated "They are afraid they will burn Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO), based in Washing-Many of Huaycan's 85,000 inhabitants are refugees from the Mr. Flores said the second

that Cuban doctors fear the affliction involves the nervous system. He said doctors have found no parallels in medical literature.

Mr. Perez said nearly 26,000 cases of the disease have been

diagnosed so far. PAHO spokesman Dan Epstein said in a telephone interview that the specialists would remain for a week meeting with Cuban counterparts.

in election COLOMBO (AP) — The governing party lost control of Colombo's provincial council Tuesday but won four of six other provinces in the first balloting since the assassination of President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

The governing United National Party (UNP) claimed the results were a victory, but opposition parties polled stronger than expected. The opposition boycotted the

1988 election that set up the councils, and Mr. Premadasa's party ruled them all unopposed. A final count showed the United National Party won a majormy in four councils, a plurality in two and narrowly lost the largest council in the western province, where the capital is located. If opposition parties form a coalition, they could take control of two councils where the governing UNP only won a plurality.

"This is a great victory for the UNP," said the party's assistant secretary, Gamini Athukorale. "We have won most of the rural areas. This endorses the government's present policies and gives us a clear mandate to go on." The election was the first since

the assassinations of Mr. Premadasa on May 1 and of a top opposition leader, Lalith Athulathmudali, on April 23. Dharmasiri Senanayake, general-secretary of the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party.

urged the nation's opposition groups to overcome their differences, form a coalition and take control of the two councils where the governing party only won a plurality.

"We bad a common understanding during the campaign. Now we have to sit down and discuss forming a coalition," he

Following Mr. Premadasa's assassination, parliament elected his prime minister, Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, as his successor.

Everything that could go wrong, did — IISS Less expected, however, was the "resurgence of nationalist

LONDON (AFP) — In the past year the world has suffered a period of disillusionment and upheaval in which "almost everything that could go wrong did go wrong," a London think tank said Wednesday. In its annual Strategic Survey

of the World, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) found that on the whole, multilateral cooperation set the pace but nationalist feelings worsened.

"Russia was in political and economic chaos...peace talks in the Middle East were in abeyance...peace accords in Angola and Cambodia were shredded...famine stalked much of Africa." said the IISS.

"Freedom encouraged by the collapse of Communist rule transmuted into freedom for ethnicnationalist demands to stir up wars of particular savagery and brutality," said the report.

It was "not wholly unexpected that the collapse of artificial political constructions like the former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia gave rise to new peaks of ethnonationalism," said IISS.

Maastricht Treaty" on European

and security integration has slowed considerably, as politithusiasm to race ahead of the feelings of the electorate were not accorded the degree of support they had expected."

That drive, warned the IISS, "is now in danger of petering out

ity to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), failed to come near the high hopes that had been invested in them," the

lems are taking from narrow tainty" within the Secretariat.

nationalist interests.

against cosa nostra.

"Many of the more rosy-hued hopes for multilateral approaches were indeed naive, but some of the projections were sounder and more realistic," said the survey, cautioning that an "interdependent world must not allow the failure of the best to drive out the promise of the good."

The IISS warned the U.N. that "continual failure is dangerous, that it "undermines the credibility of the organisation, particularly with regard to those who most need to feel/respect for the world body."

By the end of 1992, the continuing war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the "complete failure" of the U.N. operation in Somalia, resumption of civil war in Angola and the U.N.'s growing difficulties in Cambodia "had scriously deflated the sense of optimism with which the year had begun," it said.

The organisation's worldwide problems, said the IISS, were Most foreboding, it said, was exacerbated by "continuing financial instability...a growing

Part of the problem, said the IISS, was the way in which the U.N. responded in trouble spots.

The U.N. "now accepts that in a chaotic situation...the provision of very few peacekeepers with insufficient logistical supports, restrictive rules of engagement and a mandate that prevents them from acting, merely allows local aggressors to ride rough-

Somalia, said the IISS, was a "salutary" lesson for the U.N which sent in a peacekeeping force of 500 to deal with a country "where there was no peace to keep, no government to deal with, no police force or national army to support or on which to

some return to normality...." said the survey.

ances," it said.

on crackdown anniversary at Seoul's Yonsei University. SEOUL (AP) — Riot police battled thousands of students Tues-As about 1,000 riot police day to block them from marching moved in to block the march, fighting broke out. Students kickto the homes of two former presto demand a new invesed and punched, and police pummeled students with clubs and tigation of a bloody military crackdown. The hand-to-hand combat that About 200 students pounded. raged for more than an hour was the most violent student-police

Seoul police battle students

their way through police lines using steel bars and raced to the nearby residential area where the former presidents both have homes, not far from each other. Police fired volleys of tear-gas to drive other students back.

At nightfall, about 1,500 students were in a standoff with more than 1,000 riot police backed by armoured multiple tear-gas launchers. The confrontation was in an area roughly 300 metres from the two houses.

confrontation in Seoul since President Kim Young-Sam took office in February. At least two dozen students were injured, some seriously. The number of police injuries and arrests was not immediately available. Students protested to mark the anniversary of the 1980 crack-

shoot civilians. Both former presidents have denied direct involve-"Punish Chun Doo-Hwan and

down in southern Kwangju City and to demand that former Presidents Chun Doo-Hwan and Roh Tae-Woo be punished. The students say they ordered soldiers to

Rob Tae-Woo — main culprits of the: Kwangju massacre," more than 4,000 students shouted as they marched from the main gate

Rebel strike call cripples Peruvian public transport

LIMA, Peru (AP) — The few Peruvians who headed to work Monday traveled on trucks, bicycles and tricycle taxis as a rebelcalled "armed strike" crippled public transport and shut down businesses in the heart of the

Shining Path rebels called the strike in Lima to mark the 13th anniversary of the start of the guerrilla war which has left more than 25,000 people dead.

It appeared to have more impact than any strike in recent years. An estimated 80 per cent of the stores in downtown Lima. where the government palace is located, were closed at midday, including a popular street mar-

Downtown merchants had ignorediprevious strike calls from

"They handed out pamphlets on every corner Sunday warning the street vendors not to open their stalls," said downtown resident. Bertha Jimenez. Rébels set off a car bomb at a fish market and burned a taxi

attacks intended to intimidate Peruvians into staying home. The army patrolled the streets

early Monday at the start of the

three-day strike. Four rebels and

three civilians died in weekend

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A

tigating.

Two teams of specialists were

And last week, President Fidel

"It felt like there was a mos-

She didn't look underfed, the paper said. But even in agricultu-

ton, sent four specialists. An American organisation, Orbis, sent three. Cuban Deputy Health Minister Jorge Antelo Perez told a WHO meeting in Geneva this month

feelings within Europe as parliaments and people were forced by the calendar to face the momentous decisions reflected in the

Union, the survey found. It said the drive for "political

'as nationalist concepts of economic and security protectionism "Multilateral solutions to the world's ills, from the United Nations to the European Commun-

IISS said. the "buffeting that multilateral solutions to international prob-- sense of frustration and uncer-

shod..."

"In the midst of anarchy and freebooting, this U.N. force was supposed to help secure and deliver relief aid and to organise

The U.S.-led multinational force of 37,000 inserted in December "showed what needs to be done in comparable circumstN BRIEF

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Juventus finally find CLASICA MILL Reply Platini's heir

in the bast for the country of the c MILAN (AP) — It took three years to realise it, but Juventus may have found its long-sought wheir to Michel Platini.

Roberto Baggio, Italian soccer's most expensive transfer when he reluctantly joined the Turin team in 1990, has produced a streak of outstanding performances in recent months that has fans dreaming of a revival of the club's triumphant era with Platini

Baggio's imaginative play this season has taken Juventus to this year's UEFA Cup final. He scored two goals in his team's 3-1 road victory in the first leg against German team Borussia Dortmund earlier this month and Juventus can seal the title Wednesday in the second-leg match at Turin.

The UEFA crown would signal a comeback of sorts for Juventus. Italy's most popular and once most successful team. The club has gone three years without a major title and hasn't won an Italian League championship in seven years.

French forward Platini, supported by a number of Italian internationals including World Cup star striker Paolo Rossi, was a key to two of La Juve's four league championships, plus its Champions Cup and Cupwinners Cup titles in the 1980s.

Now, with Baggio leading the charge, fans are looking for more titles in the 1990s.

"Baggio now has the blackand-white colours in his heart he has become the team leader," said club President Giampiero Boniperti, who recently extended Baggio's contract through 1996. The player will reportedly receive about \$2.5 million a year.

Baggio, a crowd favourite when he played with Fiorentina, had initially opposed his transfer to Juventus at a record fee of about \$15 million.

His departure from Florence touched off riots by groups of Florentine fans and his declared love for his former team caused him the dislike of Juventus supporters. Baggio even refused to kick a penalty against Fiorentina during his first season in Turin. This season Baggio, unfettered

from tactical duties and left free:4 to play the way he likes, exploded with 33 goals — 19 in league games, six in the UEFA Cup, three in the Italian Cup and six with the Italian national team. He scored all his team's goals in the UEFA Cup semifinal against powerful Paris St. Germain. Such numbers have put Baggio

is contention for Europe's biggest honour — the Golden Ball Trophy awarded every year to the best player on the continent. "He's a player of great class, who can invent goals and beauti-

ful moves," said AC Milan's Dutch star Marco Van Basten, three times voted as best European player. "He deserves the Golden Ball award."

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Jordan leads Bulls to Eastern Conference finals

RICHFIELD (AP) — In a building where his heroics have become routine, Michael Jordan did it again Monday night.

He sank a remarkable fallaway jumper from the right side of the foul line at the buzzer, beating the Cleveland Cavaliers 103-101 and sending the Chicago Bulls to the Eastern Conference finals for the fifth straight time.

The victory was the Bulls' ninth consecutive in the playoffs, dating to last year's NBA finals, They swept Atlanta in three straight and Cleveland in four straight so far this season,

Jordan, still bothered by the sprained right wrist sustained last Thursday, scored 31 points on 11-of-24 shooting. He also grabbed nine rebounds.

With the score 101-101, the Bulls rebounded Craig Ehlo's missed shot and called time with 18.5 seconds left. They then got the ball to Jordan, guarded closely by Gerald Wilkins. As the final seconds ticked, Jordan - his back to Wilkins - wheeled and faded, letting go of a shot that nestled into the net as the buzzer sounded.

The shot was only a few feetaway from the spot where he sank a 16-footer over Ehlo to beat Cleveland at the buzzer in a deciding first-round game in 1989. It also came on the same floor where Jordan scored a career-high 69 points in 1990.



SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

World champion fails dope test

SOFIA (AFP) — The women's world discuss champion and Olympic silver medallist Tsvetanka Christova has failed a dope test. The Bulgarian Athletics Federation said Tuesday that both Christova, and another discus thrower, Stefania Simova, have failed an initial Atest. The samples were taken during a visit to Bultaria in late March by officials from the International Amateur Athletic Federation. Their second, or B, samples will be examined by the IAAF/Olympic sports laboratory in Cologne, at a date yet to be decided.

New squad formed to replace air crash victims

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) — The Football Association of Zambia has named a new national soccer squad after 18 key players were killed in an air crash last month, newspapers reported Monday. Denmark's Development Cooperation minister, Helle Degn, said in Copenhagen Friday that Denmark would pay expenses for the revamped 27-man squad to train there for six weeks. The Zambians were favourites for qualifying in the World Cup and the Africa Cup of nations. The Federation of International Football Associations has postponed Zambia's World Cup qualifiers for two months because of the crash. Eighteen players and several team officials died when the military cargo plane they were flying to a match in Senegal crashed into the sea off Libereville.

Tyson gets thumbs-down

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ice skater Dorothy Hamili and gymnast Mary Lou Retton are top of the sports pops in America — but boxer Mike Tyson get the thumbs-down. An opinion poll carried out by Sports Marketing Group found out that Retton, Olympic champion in 1984, headed the poularity stakes with 55 per cent, equal with 1976 champion Hamill. Basketball star Michael Jordan won 47 per cent of the votes and American football quarterback Joe Montana 44 - but Mike Executivon the Trost distiked" award with a third of the votes, followed by tennis player John

Knicks' Riley named Coach of the Year

NEW YORK (R) — Pat Riley, who guided the New York Knicks to the best record in the Eastern Conference at 60-22, has won the Red Auerbach Trophy as the NBA Coach of the Year for the 1992-93 season, the National Basketball Association announced Monday. Riley, who also won NBA coach of the year honours in 1990 with the Los Angeles Lakers, becomes the fifth coach ever to win the award twice. He edged Houston Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich by one vote in the closest balloting in the award's 31-year history.

team are oozing confidence as

they showed once more in an

almost insolent demolition of Lil-

le. Strikers Alen Boksic and Rudi

Voeller both scored and midfiel-

der Franck Sauzee grabbed.

another to sound a warning to

their Italian opponents in

These three key players, have

reached the closing stages of the

season in splendid form and, with

Milan patently struggling of late

would be rash to consider

Paris St. Germain dropped a

point in a 1-1 draw in Bordeaux

despite dominating the match im-

pressively. But goalkeeper Ber-

nard Lama blundered badly to

hand the home side an equaliser.

Unable to pick up a back pass

from a defender, he tried to

dribble past Christophe Dugarry

but lost the ball and suffered the

indignity of seeing the Bordeaux

forward score with a shot which

It was Lama's second major

blunder in recent weeks. He

failed to cut out a simple back

pass in a World Cup qualifier in

soft goal - though France reco-

went between his legs.

luxury and we can't say we're Paris last month, allowing

champions yet. We have to be Sweden to take the lead with a

On the pitch, however, his vered to win 2-1.

to find their peerless excellence.

Marseille as outsiders for the

European title.

Marseille remain cautious

PARIS (R) — Marseille, almost

untouchable as they head towards

a record fifth successive French

League title, remained strangely

cautious as they prepared for a

decisive formight in which their

main target is the European Cup.

a 4-1 win over Lille Saturday,

taking their lead to four points

with just three games to go, but

were rejuctant to claim the title

With their attention beginning

to shift towards their date in

Munich with AC Milan May 26,

Marseille players and officials

were in no mood to count chick-

"We've opened up a gap and

taken a new and important step

towards the title," captain Didier

Deschamps said. "But it's not all

over yet. It's up to us to finish off

as Marseille receive their main

rivals Paris St. Germain three

days after the European Cup final

in the penultimate league match

Paris St. Germain and Monaco

are an advantage but they are no

careful," Goethals added.

"The four points we have over

A slip-up could be dangerous

ens before they hatch.

the job properly."

of the season.

was in the bag.

The French leaders romped to

Last month's on-court stabbing

Seles stabbing casts shadow

PARIS (AFP) — This year's French Open will certainly go down in history - but not for the reasons the organisers would have liked.

of Monica Seles has ensured that the first Grand Slam tournament to take place in its aftermath will be cloaked by an unprecedented degree of security.

Long delays and frayed Parisian nerves seem inevitable following the decision to introduce body searches for every spectator throughout the two-week tourna-

The loss of the world number one is a major blow for the organisers.

It was here, in 1989, that Seles first granted her way onto the world stage by reaching the semifinals and her absence will inevitably devalue the achievements of whoever succeeds her as champion.

That 1989 semi-final when she lost to Steffi Graf in three sets. was the last time Seles lost on the red clay at Roland Garros and 1993 should have been the year she became the first woman to win four straight French Open

But now, instead of preparing a re-run of last year's classic final against Graf, when she won 18-8 in the final set, Seles will be watching the tournament on television, knowing that if her biggest rival wins, she could also lose her number one ranking.

The odds on a Graf victory must be fairly short. Her defeat of Gabriela Sabatini in the final of the German Open Sunday showed how limited the competition is for her and Seles is at the top of the women's game.

Despite a string of unforced errors from the German, Sabatini was unable to capitalise and has now gone without a tournament win since last year's Italian Open.

With Martina Navratilova again skipping the French to concentrate on her Wimbledon preparations, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario looks like the only serious opponent standing between Graf and a third French title.

Sanchez has had a good season. She has won four tournaments. beating Graf infinals at both Key Biscayne and Hamburg. In ambition she knows that on clay her powers of retrieval can frustrate Graf's hitting power as she did when she beat German in the ... On current Form, Courier's 1989 final.

An even bigger obstacle for Graf could, be her own state of

Seles' attacker told police he had wanted to help Graf regain and believes he is capable of the number one spot and after her disappointing display against Sabatini she admitted the upsetting affair had left her with concentration problems.

"Physically, I am definitely ready for the French," she said. "But mentally I'm not as confident as I should be. I'm doubting myself and if I make a few errors I start thinking that I'm not playing well, instead of concentrat-

While Graf struggles to pull her psyche together, Jim Courier should have no confidence problems as he bids for a third consecutive men's title.

Only Bjorn Borg, who won



Monica Seles tells reporters about her condition after helps stable while playing in the Hamburg Women's Tournament last month

Boris Becker, who after starting

the year with the target of regain-

ing the number one status, has

lurched in recent weeks from one

humiliation to another in the

Coming back from a seven

week break with a virus, Becker

has managed only four victories

in his last five tournaments and

Michael Chang, the 1989 cham-

pion and still the youngest win-

this year when he lost to Marc

Gollner in Hamburg. But he

bounced back at the Italian Open

and are capable of giving bigger

Andrei Medvedev, a winner at

Estoril and Barcelona aiready

this season, is another in the

category, although there are

many prepared to bet that the

names a nasty shock.

the way here one day.

to reach the semi-final.

worst run of his career.

Gunther Bresnik.



Steffi Graf

four of his six titles on the trot between 1978 and 81, has achieved that before and Courier's displacement from the top of the rankings earlier this year suggested a more open tournament than last year, when the American dropped one set in seven matches. But in Rome last week Courier

looked to be back to his best as he scythed his way through a topquality field to win the Italian

"They say Agassi hits the ball hard but compared to Jim he is like a choir boy," said Fabrice Santoro, one of the bemused unfortunates on the receiving end of Courier's strong-arm style.

imost serious rival in Paris will be Stefan Edberg. The Swede, who won in Madrid last month, has devoted more time than ever before to his preparation on clay winning the only Grand Slam title he has yet to claim.

A decision to miss the early part of the European clay court season and head for Asia paid off spectacularly for Pete Sampras. He won three tournaments and took full advantage of Courier's stumbles to take over as number

But on day the American has yet to beat anybody in the top ten. His best performance at Roland Garros was a quarter-final place lace year and, after so little preparation on the surface, he doesn't look a good bet to go further this time.

Much the same can be said for

Women skiers do not like Lillehammer course in the supermarket parking lot

NEW YORK (AP) - Imagine holding the Masters at the neighbourhood par-3, or the Indy 500

That's how most of the world's best women skiers feel about staging the Olympic downhill on the flat, featurcless Haffell Course near Lillehammer, Norway next February.

They are joined in their dishke for the course by the Internation. al Ski Federation (FIS), which Monday repeated its support of the skiers in calling for the women's race to be moved further north, to the demanding men's

course at Kvitfjell. Among the most outspoken of the women is the one with arguably the buggest stake in the race. defending gold medalist Kerrin Lee-Gartner. She won her title at Meribel, France on the "Roc Dy Fer" — the iron face — the Bernhard Russi-designed course that posed the stiffest challenge

ever faced by women. As far as the facers were coucerned, there was no going back." They'd proven they could handle a course designed by a men's

Olympic champion has just split from his trainer That's why Lee-Gartner and-; the rest were so disappointed. when they saw Hafiell ner, got off to a bad start on clay

"When you drove into town you couldn't even see a mountain," she said of her first look at the course. And things got no better after that.

A marathon three-and-a-half The women got together andbour clash in the quarters with called on organisers to move the. Andrei Chesnokov lett Chang women's downhill to Kvitheli, a ... with nothing left to face Courier twisting, turning, high-speed,. the following day, but he proved piece of real estate on which only that the incredible battling spirit a top downhiller could excel. that brought him his win four

years ago was still alive. The Lillehummer organisers Chesnokov, revitalised by a said they would take the suggesfinal appearance in Hamburg, tion under advisement, but two where he lost to Michael Stich, weeks ago announced they would and Goliner, who beat Eddberg keep the race at Hafjell, although and Ivan Lendl to win the Nice they would try to beef it up. - --Open, are among the band of players that feel at home on clay

In stating their intention to keep the Olympic race at Haffell ... organisers have the backing of the International Olympic Committee. But the matter may not be closed. The FIS is the agency charged with conducting the Olympic alpine competition, and 18-year-old Ukrainian will go all so it's weight, if brought to bear can be a considerable influence

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GOREN BRIDGE

BRIDGE A LA GIPSY ROSE

West led a club and, for those who

view life through rose-colored spec-

tacles, everything was easy. Declar-

er won in hand, drew trumps and

started on hearts. Unfortunately,

that suit failed to break, so declarer

had to concede two spade tricks and

When this hand was dealt in a

match at the European Mixed Teams Championship, Marianne

Serf of France was aware that a 4-1

heart split could present a problem.

She found a textbook method to

After winning the ace of clubs,

Serf ruffed a club, drew trumps in

one round and then cashed just one

heart—the queen—before exiting

with a spade. The best the defenders

could do was take two spades, and-

ing in the West hand. Since the lead

of any suit other than a heart would

give declarer a ruff-sluff, West was

forced to return the jack of hearts.

Declarer played low from dummy

and, had East followed, all the

hearts would have been winners.

When East showed out, declarer was

able to win in hand with the ace and

finesse the nine to bring home the

suit. Observe that the endplay

same way had it been East who held the long hearts.

protect against that possibility.

a heart for down one.

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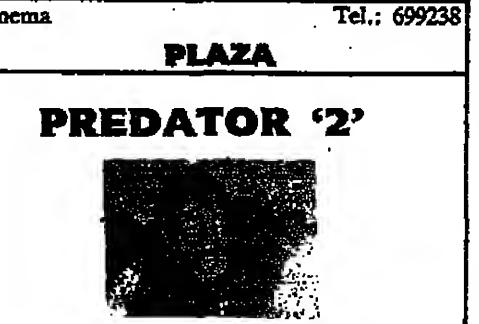
in a play entitled: Death of Taybeh By: Suheir Fahd, Mohammad Al Qabbani, Amer Al Khafash

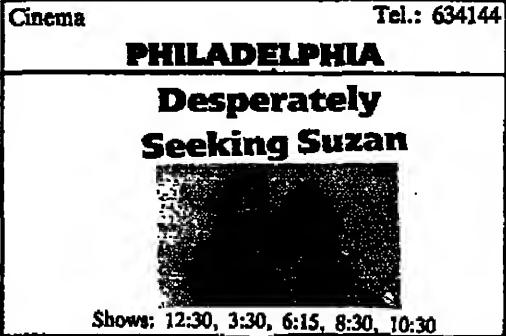
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Sudan peace talks collapse

ABUJA (AFP) — Sudanese peace talks collapsed here on Tuesday after southern rebels challenged the military junta in Khartoum to hold a referendum 'offering a choice between nation-.' al unity or Islamic law.

: A Sudanese government spokesman said the negotiations had been adjourned until June

Nigerian chief mediator Tunii Olangunju said the Khartoum team and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) had been unable to reach agreement on any joint statement and would consult their respective leaderships.

Late Monday, the SPLA called on the junta to give northerners in Africa's war-torn, largest nation a choice between strict Sharia law or the national unity of the

Colonel John Garang's SPLA has fought governments in Khartoum for a decade for a secular state in Sudan, where most southerners are animists or Christians. Mr. Olangunju said that a joint statement could not be issued

because of disagreements, particularly over power-sharing arrangements during a transitional period put to the rival delega-

He gave no date for the resumption of talks, but Khartoum's representative said it would be June 19 as he came out

of the conference room. adopting by the state of Sharia law, which provided for punishments such as the amputation of thieves' hands and the stoning to death of adulterers.

The SPLA had accused the government of "intransigence" over Sharia, but Khartoum's spokesman, Ali Ai Haj Mohammad, said Tuesday the rebels refused to sign the final statement and were manipulated to that

Before the talks broke down. Col. Garang himself unexpectedly arrived here Monday at the behest of the Nigerians, but an authoritative SPLA source said his presence would have "no

effect" on the negotiations. The only point where consensus was reached was on the principle of a ceasefire commission, but Khartoum objected to an SPLA proposal that it include observers from Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, the European Community and the United States. Before the talks began on April al ceasefire while Sudanese leader General Omar Al Bashir renewed an amnesty offer to all rebels who laid down their arms.

26, the SPLA declared a unilater-

SPLA spokesman, Nhial Deng A main sticking point was Nhial had said the warring sides would Tuesday produce a statement listing their points of disagreement, but in the event the rebels produced their own.

> Apart from the main bones of contention, the SPLA said there was no accord on foreign policy, international representation, the judicial system, the banking system and exchange rate control, and international trade.

> The SPLA wanted missionary activity placed under the jurisdiction of Sudan's different states, but Khartoum called for federal

> International observers estimate that the war and famine have claimed at least 400,000 lives, while hundreds of thousands of people face starvation and have been displaced.

The SPLA itself has been weakened by a split between the mainstream faction and a coalition of splinter groups, which were not represented in Abuja at Col. Garang's insistence.

Peres offers India anti-extremism help

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres offered to help India in the fight against extremism on the final day of a groundbreaking visit he called the opening chapter of their relationship.

Mr. Peres inked pacts on cultural exchanges and tourism to add to agreements providing for ecoinomic cooperation and regular consultations between the two -foreign offices on another hectic iday of meetings with Indian lead-

He said his visit had served as a "most happy and promising." copening chapter for relations between the two countries, which established full diplomatic ties in January 1992 ending four decades of hostility.

-Relations between India, a staunch supporter of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and Israel were, however, mutually exclusive of their ties with Arab states and the PLO. Mr. Peres told a news confer-

"We would like a good relationship with India. We would also like to see India have the best of relations with Arab counseeking a good relationship with Arab states.

The Israeli foreign minister. whose visit marked the highest level contact between India and Israel since relations were upgraded, indicated readiness to

help India fight extremism. "Violence and terror has an international context." he said when asked about possible cooperation in combating violence following the March 12 bombings in Bombay which killed more than 3(X) people.

"It is normal for civilised countries to come together to fight terror and violence." he said but did not spell out what shape such cooperation, which official sources said figured prominently at his talks with Indian officials. could take.

India has blamed Pakistan's military intelligence of plotting the bombings which it says were carried out by Muslim members of the Bombay underworld. It says six-key suspects have fled to the Pakistani port city of Karachi.

Mr. Peres said India's Civil Aviation Minister, Ghulam Nahi Azad questioned him about the

"They want to learn from our experience." Mr. Peres said after signing cooperation agreements on aviation and tourism.

Four planes of Indian Airlines. the domestic carrier, have been hijacked so far this year. One plane was rescued by commandos who killed the armed hijacker. The hijackers of the other three planes proved to be unarmed and surrendered after negotiations.

India also is concerned about the insurrection in its northern province Kashmir, which the Indians describe as a terrorist war supported by Pakistan.

Israeli officials said Mr. Peres asked India to help establish ties with two of India's closest neighbours. Sri Lanka and Bhutan.

Israel had a mission in Sri Lanka from 1984 that included military advisers to the Sri Lankan army fighting Tamil secessionist guerrillas. But the Israeli office was ordered closed in 1990 after complaints from the Arab

Bhutan, a feudalistic Himalayan kingdom of 6(X), (XX) people, is closely tied with India and has full relations with few other coun-

Christopher: Bosnia is Luropean responsibility

WASHINGTON (AP) - U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, saying U.S. proposals had been rejected. Tuesday put the responsibility of solving the Bosnian crisis squarely on Europe. "At heart this is a European problem," Mr. Christopher said in congressional testimony. He

nia "a problem from bell." Mr. Christopher emphasised: "We will not act alone in taking actions in the former Yugosla-

called the ethnic slaughter in Bos-

But he told the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee: "We will do what we can in concert with our ailies and friends to respond to the violence and contain the conflict."

Continuing the cautious approach to the possibility of U.S. intervention in the Balkans, Mr. Christopher said policy must follow a careful determination of U.S. interests.

"We must be tough but we also must try to be wise," he said. Mr. Christopher said "we have not given up on what we think is the soundest approach:" Lifting the arms embargo against Bosnian Muslims, and temporary "compensatory air action" to allow the Muslims to meet their Serbian foes on "a level playing field." He conceded this proposal had been rebuffed during his trip to Europe two weeks ago.

"Our allies in Europe are not willing to follow this course at the present time," he said.

Mr. Christopher said he opposed a Russian-proposed meeting Friday of the U.N. Security Council on the peace plan developed by diplomats Cyrus Vance and Lord David Owen because Bosnian Serbs have rejected the plan (see page

The U.N. meeting has been postponed, he said.

"At least the United States is not prepared to go ahead with implementation of a plan ... to which one party is in strong disagreement," he said.

"The only way to force (the Vance-Owen plan) on the Bosnian Serbs is with troops on the ground," he said.

Mr. Christopher said the United States was prepared to commit military forces to implement a peace settlement "entered into consensually and in good faith by the parties.



Hezb-e-Islami fighters man a vehicle mounted with a multiple-barrel rocket launcher in Kabul (AFI')

Battle for Kabul intensified

KABUL (Agencies) — Dozens of casualties swamped Kahul's already crowded hospitals as government troops and their guerrilla foes fought to break a stalemate in the Afghan capital Tues-

Government jets made at least eight bombing runs on positions of hardline guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatvar in southern Kahul as his rockers pounded the

Fierce rocket and artillery fire by Mr. Hekmatvar's allies, the was concentrated around a

By Sausan Ghosheh

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - A committee in-

ciuding 12 political party lead-

ers has been formed to discuss

establishing a "national demo-

cratic alliance" and to come up

with a strong front in the next

Initiated by Al Mustakbal

party, the committee includes

the secretaries-general of Al

Mustakbal, the Jordanian

Democratic People's Party, the

Jordanian Democratic Popular

Unity Party, the Progressive

Democratic People's Party, the

Democratic Arab Unity Party,

the Jordanian Democratic

Arab Party, the Jordanian

Communist Party, the Jorda-

nian Socialist Democratic Par-

ty, the Freedom Party, the

Socialist Arab Baath Party, the

parliamentary elections.

strategic road junction near the centre of the battered capital where troops loval to the coalition government were fighting off an offensive by their opponents. Neither side had made advanced, witnesses said.

Jets screaming down toward the headquarters of Mr. Herkmaryar's Hezb-e-Islami party a few kilometres south of Kubul sent people in the suburbs fleeing into bunkers.

Anti-aircraft batteries manned Shi'ite Hezh-e-Wahdat, opened

12 parties discuss united slate

The Jordan Times was un-

able to reach any IAF official

for comment. But one official

from Al Mustakbal said the

IAF had "no reason to ... it

The committee, which

should originally meet once a

month, is now meeting once a

week to discuss their election

plans, hoping to reach a con-

sensus and to run on the same

to agree with the IAF and

other parties on the main prin-

ciples and a unified ballot,"

Mr. Issawi: will "strengthen

democracy" and will ensure

pluralism by "enabling us to

come out with a parliament

that represents the highest

numbers of political parties"

Coordination among these

This coasensus, according to

"I hope that we will be able

ballot, Mr. Issawi said.

Mr. Issawi said.

can win on its own.'

its ranks.

fire as the planes streaked over-

"Get the civilians into the bunkers," shouted one commander at the headquarters of Wahdat leader Abdul Ali Mazari.

Another commander ordered his men to move a tank away from a bunker entrance saying that it made an easy target.

"These planes are injuring civilians," said Hezb-e-Islami commander Zulmai. "They fly high to avoid our fire and so they can't target our artillery properly."

should be among political par-

ties and not independents who

are included in the open dia-

logue under the JANDA

umbrella. He added that those

parties will have to choose

which political alliance they

want to join when the time for

Although political analysts

are sceptical that an agreement

will be reached among all the

parties in Jordan to run on a

unified ballot, Mr. Issawi be-

lieves that the committee is a

positive step towards joint ac-

Even if a unified ballot is not

reached, he said, this commit-

tee is useful because it is out-

lining the points of converg-

ence between the political pax-

Thus far, Mr. Issawi said,

the committee has agreed to

form two committees: One in

support of the Palestinian peo-

ple and the other of the Iraqi

In addition, he said, the

committee has come out with a

unified stand against the sales

tax. He asserted that its stand

influenced the government's

decision in delaying the im-

The committee will also dis-

cuss the Election Law with a

view to raising the number of

representatives in the Lower

people.

tion and future coalitions.

the elections draws closer.

firing at principal PRINCETON, W. VA (AP) -

2 teens held after

circulation magazine.

Two students smuggled guns and

Mother Teresa's

who was hospitalised after breaking three ribs in a fall here last week, is improving slowly but will remain in clinic for at least another week, her doctor said. "Mother Teresa remains at risk because of her age and cardiac problems," said the physician, Vincenzo Bilotta. He said the 82-year-old nun "is still suffering greatly but she would like to leave hospital to resume her activities," adding that he would try to keep Mother Teresa at his clinic "for at least another week." Mother Teresa, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her work with the poor in Calcutta through the Missionaries of Charity, hurt herself in a fall Thursday at the local offices of her order.

security measures adopted by tries," he said. "We are ourselves Israel's national airline. El Al.

Environment talks in Tokyo next week TOKYO (AFP) - The third meeting of the environmental commission working as part of the multilateral peace talks on the Middle East will be held here next week, Japan's foreign ministry said Tuesday.

Invited to the talks Monday and Tuesday are some 40 countries. most notably those involved directly in the peace process -Israel and the Arab countries, the United States, Russia and the European Community.

The environmental meeting will be the third chaired by Japan since the commission was formed in January 1992, at the same time as other peace talks commissions on economic development, disarmament, water and refugees in the troubled region.

It was also announced by the Jananese Foreign Ministry that a top official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Nabil Shaath, an advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, would be present as the "de facto" head of the Palestinian delegation at the peace talks.

His second will be Saeb Erakat, a Palestinian from the occupied territories. Israel refuses to negotiate directly with the PLO, so the PLO official will have to take a

sideline role in the formal talks, making way for Dr. Erakat. The same practice was followed at the last environmental

meeting here one year ago. Among the subjects on the agenda are environmental management, waste treatment and marine pollution, a Japanese offi-

Mr. Arafat said in Vienna Monday that aborted talks between the Palestinians and Israel on water resources — a Vital factor in the current multilateral negotiations — will resume in

He told journalists at the talks would reconvene in Vienna from June 7 to 9.

Commenting on the recent inconclusive Middle East peace talks in Washington, Mr. Arafat expressed disappointment that hopes of a positive outcome had not realised.

He welcomed American involvement in the discussions and said that the PLO would pursue negotiations with the United States after the next meeting of foreign ministers of the frontline Arab states.

Mr. Arafat gave no details of the time or place of that meeting. During his two-day stay in Austria was to seek Austrian support for the PLO's position in the peace talks in meetings with Chancellor Franz Vrantizky, President Thomas Klestil, Foreign Minister Alois Mock and Parhament Speaker Heinz Fischer. The previous round of discus-

place in Geneva in April 1992. They were broken off in acrimony after the PLO accused Israel of refusing to recognise the water rights of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

sions on the water supply took

Popular Unity Party and the Party for Progress and Justice. The secretary-general of the Jordanian National Party attended the last committee

meeting, but he has not yet confirmed his party's intentions, activists said. Although the current committee is now composed of leftist and centrist parties, it is

keeping its door open and calling on other parties to join in. Mustafa Al Issawi, rapporteur of the committee and the

assistant-secretary-general of Al Mustakbal, said his party had first contacted the parties that it perceived to be closer to it in their programmes. "From now on, decisions to invite other parties should be taken by the committee as a whole," Mr. Issawi said Tuesday.

But, Mr. Issawi stressed that he was looking forward to have other parties, especially the Islamic Action Front (IAF), in

parties, if agreed upon, will take the shape of supporting the strongest force among the parties in the committee in each district, he said.

and party members.

But Mr. Issawi refused to specify who the "united front" will be running against if all the political parties in Jordan run on the same ballot.

Discussions over the next parliamentary elections are also ongoing under the umbrella of the Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA) among some of the same political parties who are members in the new commit-

Mr. Issawi said Al Mustakbal saw a neccessity for establishing the committee despite the existence of JANDA because it believed that any coordination for the next elections

House of Parliament to 100 and lowering the voting age to 18. Mr. Issawi added. He also perceives the com-

position of the tax.

mittee could play a significant role in increasing the number of people who will vote in the next elections. "Only 40 per cent voted in the previous election, we need to convince people of the advantages of voting," he said.

Islamic front, in rare meeting, states its case to U.S. ambassador

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter AMMAN - The political

front of Jordan's mainstream Islamic movement Tuesday revealed that it held recently an '-unprecedented meeting with · the American ambassador in Amman, during which it reaffirmed its known positions against the Arab-Israeli peace process and U.S. policies in the Middle East.

The Islamic Action Front (IAF), founded as a politicalparty by members of the Muslim Brotherhood last year, also said it voiced its opposition to 'any unilateral move to amend -Jordan's Election Law and that it believes in the "gradual and - wise" implementation of Islamic law in the Kingdom.

An IAF press statement said the May 10 meeting between Ambassador Roger Harrison and IAF officials headed by Secretary-General Ishaq Al Farhan was sought by the American side.

Peter Kovach, the embassy spokesman, confirmed the meeting and described it as routine and part of his mission's continuing contacts with

Jordanian political parties. "It is normal for diplomats to keep in rouch with leaders of political parties," Mr. Kovach said. Prior to the May 10 meeting, he told the Jordan Times.

"American diplomats have had contacts with members of the Islamic Action Front as well as other political parties." The ambassador himself, however. had not personally taken part in direct meetings with the Islamists before, due mainly to their reluctance to meet with

available to the Jordan Times. American diplomats have been meeting leaders of Islamic movements in the Arab World and elsewhere in what the State Department describes as an effort to understand "political Islam." American diplomats have had contacts with the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, the Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood, before the administration formally announced an end to meetings with Hamas

him, according to information

officials three months ago. Mr. Kovach would not comment on what was discussed during the meeting between Ambassador Harrison and IAF leaders. Nor would he say how accurate was the IAF's version

of the discussions. But other sources close to the talks said the IAF's statement was "a fairly accurate summary" of what was discus-

The IAF statement had a preamble which sought to explain why the front held the

meeting with the U.S. ambassador.

The front wanted to "explain its position on political issues that have become issues of international concern," the statement said, and quoted Dr. Farhan as telling the ambassador that "we prefer that others hear from us directly rather than the distorted versions of the Zionist and Western media."

During the meeting, held at the IAF office in Abdali and attended by IAF Assistant Secretary-General Abdullah Akayleh and Administrative Committee chief Hamzeh Mansour, the ambassador explained that his visit was a courtesy call and not different from similar visits to other political parties in Jordan to discuss various political issues, and the peace process, the

statement said. The statement quoted Dr. Farhan as saying that the IAF was a party which operates in conformity with the Jordanian Constitution and the Political Parties law of 1992.

Dr. Farhan sought an explanation on what President Bill Clinton meant in comments he made when he received the credentials of the new Jordanian ambassador in Washington, Dr. Fayez Tarawneh, and whether his words included a reference to the

"The ambassador denied (that there was any reference to the Islamists' programme in President Clinton's comments) but his explanation was not convincing," the IAF state-

ment said.

In his comments, made April 14, Mr. Clinton paid tribute to Jordan's democratisation process and said:

"Your progress has been even more noteworthy considering the great difficulties facing Jordan, and the desire of some to use the very instruments of democratisation to gain and keep power for themseives."

'Blockade of Aqaba'

Dr. Farhan expressed "the anger of the Jordanian people. against the blockade at Aqaba" — imposed by the U.S.-led international enforcers of the embargo against Iraq -- and particularly referred to the interception and diversion in April of a ship carrying newsprint for Jordan causing problems for the

Jordanian press. The diversion of the ship was an "aggressive action that infringes upon Jordan's sovereignty and democratic march since the press is one of the pillars of democracy which the U.S. asserts it seeks to protect," Dr. Farhan said, according to the IAF state-

The ambassador denied any such motives behind the interception and said the intercepted ship was only one of the three such vessels, but "the explanation was below the minimum level of reason," the front's statement said.

Islam and the West

Dr. Farhan "voiced the IAF's opposition to the American police which is biased in favour of the Israeli enemy, 'the state of Israel,' and cooperation with (that state) against what they call Islamic fundamentalism."

The IAF leader accused the U.S. of "dealing with the Islamic renaissance as a substitute enemy after the demise of communism and the Soviet Union," the statement said.

"This animosity will not serve the cause of coexistence or peace in the world," Dr. Farhan said. "And the consequences will not be confined to the Arab World," He called upon the U.S. to

"accept the reality of Muslims, who represent one-fifth of the world population with a rich cultural depth," according to the statement. Dr. Farhan, in an implicit

reference to Egypt and Algeria

which are fighting militant Islamists, "condemned the American support for some Arab regimes which are exercising terrorism against their own peoples."

Jordanian politics

Replying to a question asked by the ambassador on links between the Muslim Brotherhood and the IAF, Dr. Farhan said that the front was "financially, politically and administratively independent of the Brotherhood."

"Many Muslim Brotherhood members are also members of the front but it is their private individual capacity," Dr. Farhan said. "The front welcomes anyone who believes Islam is the solution," he told the ambassador, according to the IAF statement.

Asked by the ambassador whether the front was seeking to implement Sharia, Dr. Farhan was quoted as saying that a "wise and gradual" introduction of Islamic law was an objective, "but the front will ensure that all political trends in the country share in shouldering national responsi-

Dr. Farhan rejected any unilateral government amendment to the Election Law. "The Lower House's term has not officially ended and it is the

bilities,"

proper forum for discussing or amending any law. We will not accept any law that bypasses Parliament, the representative of the people of Jordan."

Peace process

Dr. Farhan reiterated the Islamists' rejection of the American-backed Arab-Israeli negotiations saying the process "aims at depriving the Palestinians of 90 per cent of their land for the benefit of the

"We see the U.S. as a full partner of Israel and (Israel's) expansionism," said Dr. Farhan, whose party advocates the elimination of the state of Israel.

"In our view, the solution to the Palestinian problem is the return of all Jews (in Israel) to where they came from — the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe," Dr. Farhan said. "Or the U.S. should absorb them in its soil." according to the press statement.

"Only then, the people of Palestine, with all their different beliefs, will be able to exercise their right to selfdetermination," said Dr. Farhan,

He said: "No dealings with thieves who stole our land, dispersed our people and seized our resources with the help of Western colonial powers."

Forbes names Weinberger chairman

NEW YORK (AFP) -- Forbes magazine named former Defence Secretary Caspar Wemberter chairman. The pert had been vacant since the magazine's billionaire owner Malcolm Forbes died in 1990. Until now, Mr. Weinberger was publisher of the business magazine He will be replaced by associate publisher Jeffrey Cunningham. Weinberger's election and Cummigham's promotion recognise the major roles the two men have played in strengthening the magazine and its corporate parent," said Malcolm Forbes, son of the late chairman. Mr. Weinberger played a key role in broadening Forhes' position abroad, said Mr. Forbes, president and chief executive officer of the 750,000-

taking class hostage,

military rations into their high school, took more than a dozen classmates and a teacher hostage and shot at the principal hefore being arrested, officials said. No 🛕 one was hurt in the two-hour ordeal. The motive wasn't clear. The main gunman, a 15-year-old carrying a revolver, a handgun and a sawed-off shotgun, was tackled by another student as he put a gun in his pucket. Superintendent Debbie Akers said. He was taken into custody and charged with delinquency stemming from kidnapping and shooting in public, police said. The accomplice, who carried a pistol, fled after the shot was fired and also was arrested. He was identified as Kevin Larose. 18, of Princeton, and he was charged with kidnapping, said Police Lt. Casey Martin. The students arrived late for a final-period biology class at Princeton High School, closed the door behind them and took out the guns," Mr. Akers said. The main gunman, a 15-year-old. summoned Principal George Keatley over the public address system to discuss his demands, which included \$2 million to \$3 million, more weapons and hand grenades, Lt. Martin said.

health improving ROME (AFP) - Mother Teresa,

Court increases jail sentence for Hoxha's widow

TIRANA (R) — Albania's appeal court has increased the jail term for Stalinist leader Enves Hoxha's widow to 11 years after finding her guilty on further charges of siphoning off state cash for her personal benefit. Nexhmije Hoxha was found guil; ty of misappropriating 550,000 leks (around \$55,000 at the time) of public funds and had her sentence raised by two years. She had been sentenced to nine years in January for embezzling 32,000 leks (\$3,000). "We take into consideration the fact that the misappropriated value is greater than that accepted from the district court," Judge Nikoleta Kita said. Prosecutor Koco Themeli had called for Mrs Hoxha's sentence to be raised to 12 years. Mrs. Hoxha, Albania's most powerful. woman even after her husband's death in 1985, failed to turn up #6 the appeal hearing. She said in ? letter to the court that she had aiready answered the charges against her. "There is no need for me to come here and answer the charges against me because I. have responded to them in the investigation process and in the first trial," the letter said. Mos. Hoxha was represented in court: by her lawyer Dhimiter Beshiri, who was flanked by her son.